

MARVEL[®]
COMICS

SPECIAL
DOUBLE-
SIZED
ISSUE!

MAY
#375

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

TRIAL
AND
TERROR!

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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

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KELLY
NORD
OLIVETTI
DENHAM
LYLE
LEON
LEONARDI
LIPKA
BRITO
CARLSON
JONES
HANNA

WWW.MARVEL.COM

AND
LASTLY... TO
THE CHARGE OF
MURDER IN THE FIRST
DEGREE OF **POLICE
OFFICER CHARLES
BOROUGH**S,
HOW DO YOU
PLEAD?

**NOT
GUILTY**, YOUR
HONOR.

NOT GUILTY,
YOUR HONOR.

I CAN FEEL THE
EARTH **SPIN**,
SOMETIMES.

FOR THE MOST
PART, I **IGNORE**
THE PUSH OF
MOMENTUM AND
GO ABOUT MY
BUSINESS LIKE
EVERYONE ELSE...
BUT TODAY...

TODAY IT'S **UNAVOIDABLE**. THREE MONTHS
OF THE WORLD'S **CHURNING** HAS CAUGHT
UP WITH ME. AND I CAN'T BLOCK IT OUT.

I FEEL THE **INERTIA**.
THE **SPEED**. THE **SPIN**.

I THINK I'M
GOING TO
BE **SICK**.

NEW YORK CITY. THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN.

I HAVE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND THE GOVERNOR TO PROSECUTE THIS CASE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.

Mr. MURDOCK, DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO DEFEND A WOMAN WITH WHOM YOU'RE ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED --?

IF AN OFFICER IS GUNNED DOWN IN COLD BLOOD ON MY WATCH -- SOMEONE'S GOING TO PAY!

KAREN PAGE'S CELEBRITY STATUS WILL BUY HER NO LENIENCY IN THIS COURTROOM.

COME ON, PAUL... LEAVE THE MUD-SLINGING TO THE PIGS, DEAR.

NO COMMENT.

WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT A CONVICTION IS FORTHCOMING... IT'S A SMOKING GUN CASE.

SAY THAT TO MY FACE, YOU SON OF A --

MATT! MATT!

WE ALL KNOW WHAT SORT OF AN "ACTRESS" Ms. PAGE IS... I WON'T EVEN COMMENT ON HER ALLEGED "STALKER" --

AT BEST, SHE IS A MISGUIDED VIGILANTE WHO MADE A FATAL MISTAKE... AT WORST, A PSYCHOTIC KILLER.

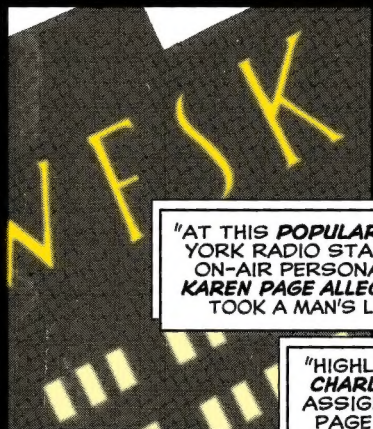
EITHER WAY, SHE'LL GET HER DUE!

COME ON, PAL, Huh? I SAID NO COMMENT!

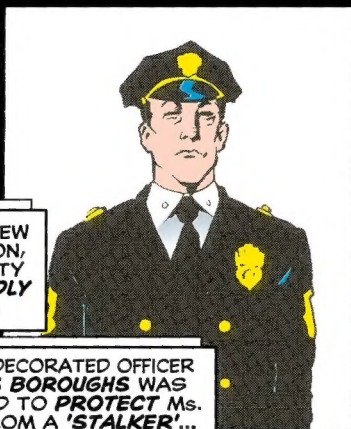
KAREN PAGE IS AN INNOCENT WOMAN. WE WILL CLEAR HER NAME.

MATT! IS KAREN BACK ON THE DRUGS? IS THIS MURDER A LINK BACK TO HER DAYS AS A PROSTI --

"I'D LIKE TO START WITH A STEP BACK, FOLKS, AND REVIEW THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM... 'KAY?'"

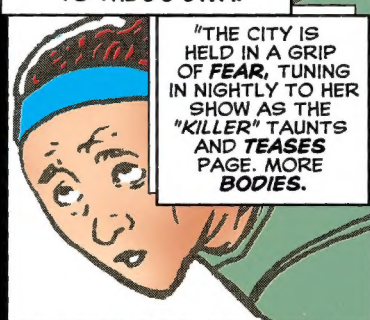


"AT THIS **POPULAR** NEW YORK RADIO STATION, ON-AIR PERSONALITY **KAREN PAGE** ALLEGEDLY TOOK A MAN'S LIFE.



"HIGHLY DECORATED OFFICER **CHARLES BOROUGHS** WAS ASSIGNED TO **PROTECT** Ms. PAGE FROM A '**STALKER**'...

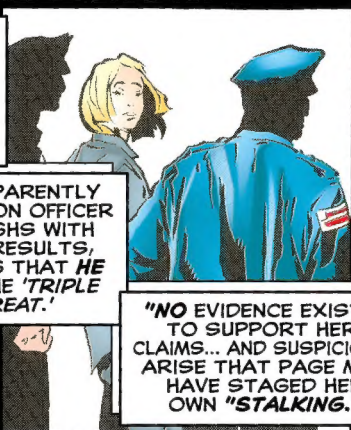
"...A CHARACTER DUBBED THE '**TRIPLE THREAT**' **KILLER**. HE MURDERED **NUMEROUS** INDIVIDUALS IN GRUESOME **TRIBUTE** TO THE **DJ DIVA**.



"THE CITY IS HELD IN A GRIP OF **FEAR**, TUNING IN NIGHTLY TO HER SHOW AS THE '**KILLER**' TAUNTS AND **TEASES** PAGE. MORE **BODIES**.



"AUTHORITIES ARE **STUMPED**. SHE GETS **ROUND** THE CLOCK PROTECTION, BUT Ms. PAGE PURCHASES A **GUN** TO PROTECT HERSELF...



"AND APPARENTLY **USES** IT ON OFFICER BOROUGHS WITH **FATAL** RESULTS, CLAIMING THAT **HE** WAS THE '**TRIPLE THREAT**.'

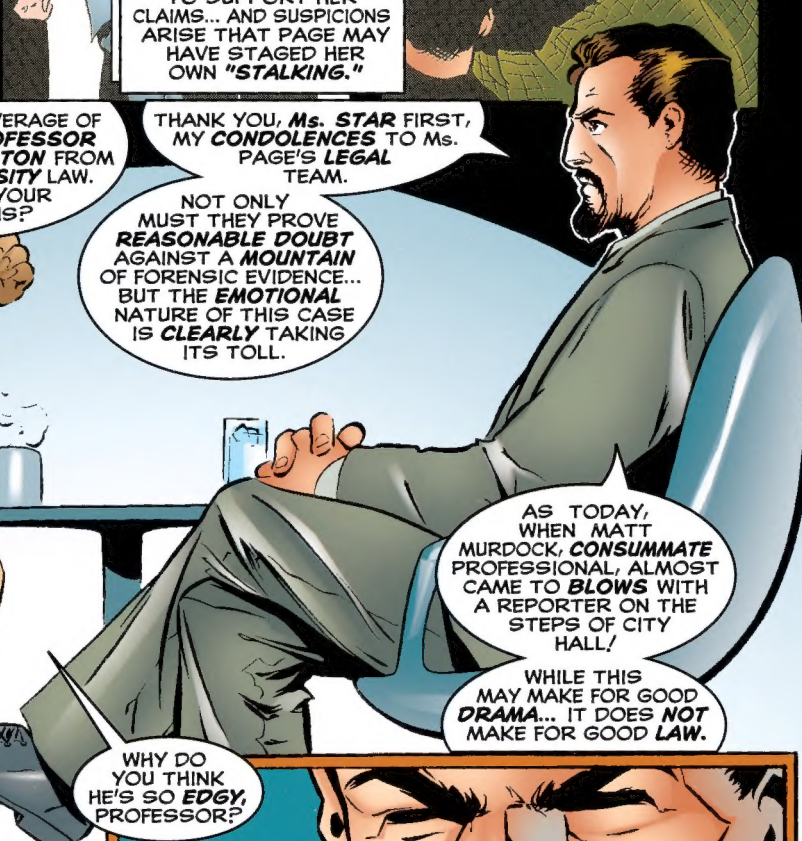
"**NO** EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT HER CLAIMS... AND SUSPICIONS ARISE THAT PAGE MAY HAVE STAGED HER OWN '**STALKING**.'



JOINING ME FOR COVERAGE OF THIS CASE IS **PROFESSOR LAWRENCE CRANSTON** FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LAW. PROFESSOR, YOUR IMPRESSIONS?

THANK YOU, Ms. **STAR** FIRST, MY **CONDOLENCES** TO Ms. PAGE'S **LEGAL** TEAM.

NOT ONLY MUST THEY PROVE **REASONABLE DOUBT** AGAINST A **MOUNTAIN** OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE... BUT THE **EMOTIONAL** NATURE OF THIS CASE IS **CLEARLY** TAKING ITS TOLL.



AS TODAY, WHEN **MATT MURDOCK**, **CONSUMMATE** PROFESSIONAL, ALMOST CAME TO **BLOWS** WITH A REPORTER ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL!

WHILE THIS MAY MAKE FOR GOOD **DRAMA**... IT DOES **NOT** MAKE FOR GOOD **LAW**.

WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S SO **EDGY**, PROFESSOR?

FEAR, OF COURSE. **MATT MURDOCK** IS **AFRAID**.





WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

I HAVE **NO** IDEA WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

NO LEGAL **BRIEF**... NO OVERTURNED **RULING** WILL TELL ME HOW TO KEEP THE **WORLD** FROM SPINNING.

MATT?

I'M GOING TO **SCREAM** --

MATT, I'M READY FOR ANOTHER ONE... MATT!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
JOE KELLY
WRITER

CHRIS CLAREMONT
STORY ASSIST

CARY NORD & MARK LIPKA

ARIEL OLIVETTI & PIER BRITO

JOHN PAUL LEON

TOM LYLE & ROBERT JONES

BRIAN DENHAM & CHRIS CARLSON

RICK LEONARDI & SCOTT HANNA

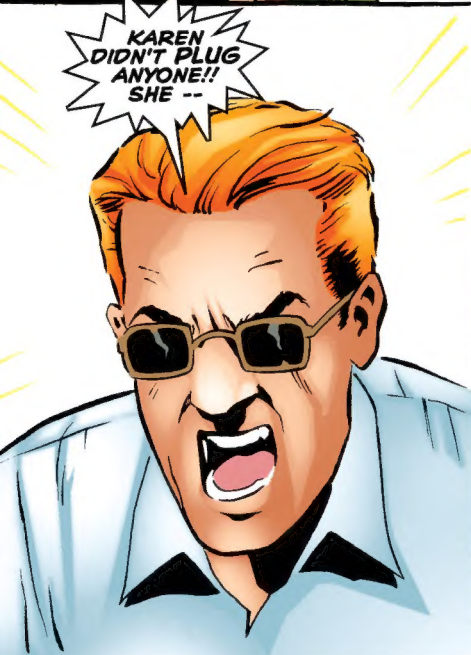
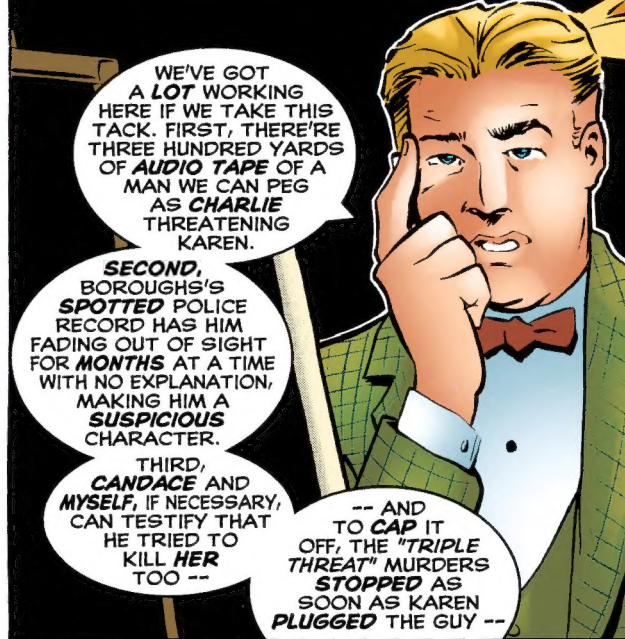
ARTISTS

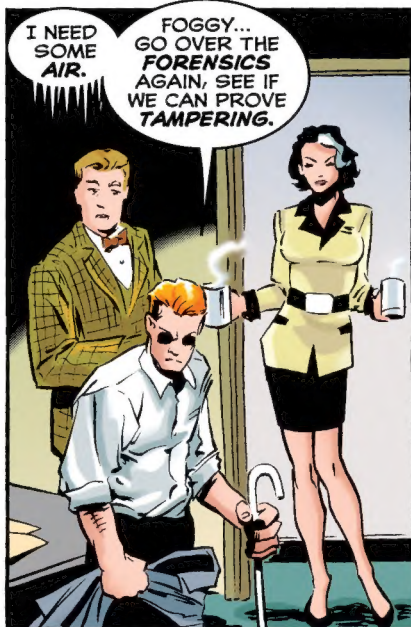
CHRISTIE SCHEELE & IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S LIZ LETTERS

JAYE GARDNER
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF





I NEED SOME AIR.

FOGGY... GO OVER THE FORENSICS AGAIN, SEE IF WE CAN PROVE TAMPERING.



MATTHEW --

I'LL BE BACK... WHEN IT'S LESS CROWDED.



SO... I SUPPOSE THAT'S HIS **SUBTLE** WAY OF TELLING ME WHERE TO STICK THE OLIVE BRANCH.

CAN YOU **BLAME** THE GUY, ROSALIND? YOU **DID** HELP KAREN BUY THE GUN --



YAAH!

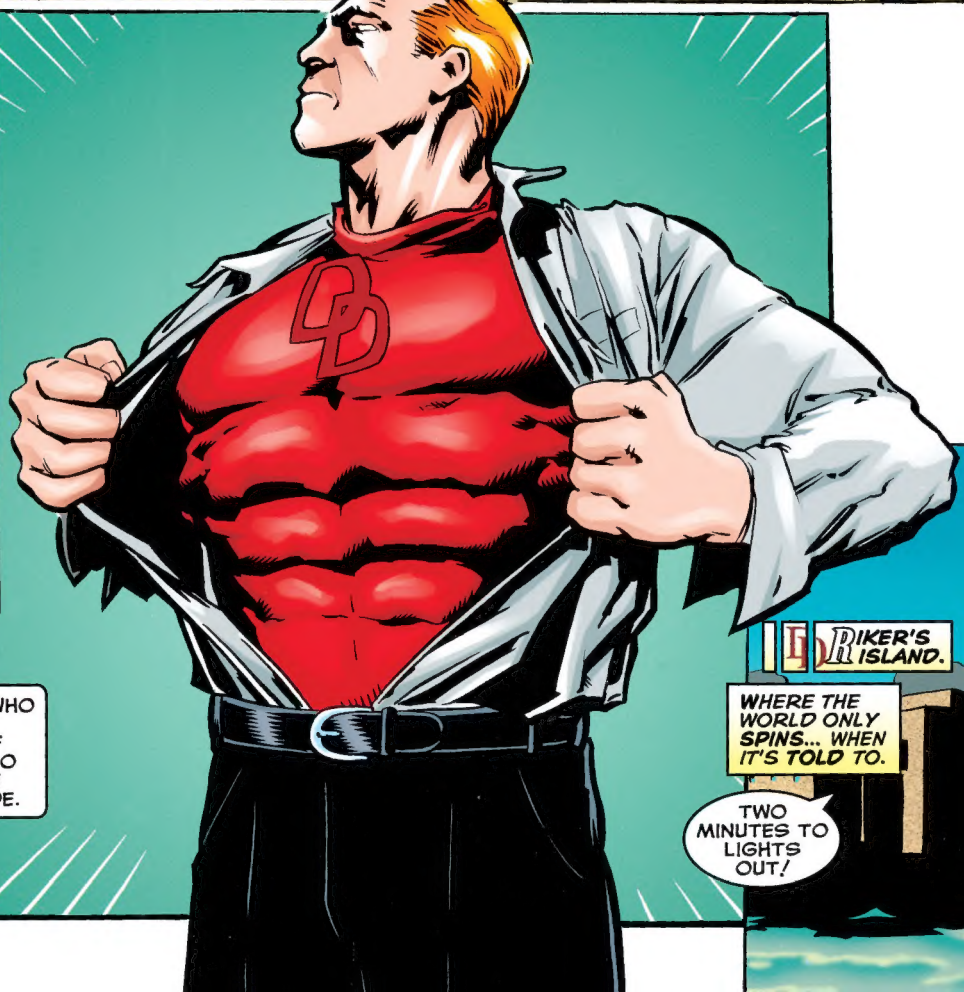
WELL I DIDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER, FOR PITY'S SAKE!

I'M **TOAST**. A HUNDRED AND TEN VOLUMES OF LEGAL **CLAP-TRAP** AND MY HEAD IS **MUSH**.



TIME TO TAKE A **BREAK**, AND LET SOMEONE **ELSE** DO THE WORK FOR A WHILE...

...SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T GET **KNOCKED OFF BALANCE**... NO MATTER HOW **WILD** THE RIDE.



DIKER'S ISLAND.

WHERE THE WORLD ONLY SPINS... WHEN IT'S TOLD TO.

TWO MINUTES TO LIGHTS OUT!



WOMEN'S DETENTION CENTER.

FRESH MEAT!

YOU NEED A FRIEND? I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND...

QUE PASA, CHICA?

COME TALK TO ME, RADIO LADY... NICE AND SOFT!

"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE."



I HATE IT WHEN WE GET **CELEBS.** THE NATIVES GET ALL **FROGGY.**

Ah, LET EM. HERE YOU GO, **PAGE!** ENJOY YOUR **STAY...**

"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE."



AND TAKE CARE OF THAT **VOICE** OF YOURS, ANGEL...

"I DO NOT WANT TO BE **HERE...** BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER HOW **GOOD** I AM AT DOING **TIME.**"

WE MIGHT WANT TO HEAR YOU **SING** LATER.

STUFF IT, **COW.**

LIGHTS OUT!



PAGE MUST CERTAINLY BE WORRYING ABOUT HOW HER... **JAHEM!** CHECKERED PAST WILL COLOR THIS JURY --

THEY SAY THAT **TELEVISION** PUTS ON TEN POUNDS...

HOLD ON, PROFESSOR... THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO... WHAT BEARING WILL THAT HAVE ON THIS CASE --



BUT FORTUNATELY, SITTING NEXT TO THAT **WINDBAG** COULD MAKE **ANYONE** LOOK TWENTY POUNDS **LIGHTER.**

WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'M GOING TO **SERIOUSLY** CONSIDER A CAREER IN **TELEVISION...**

GOOD HOURS, NICE **PAY,** **GLAMOUR...**

... AND IT SURE BEATS GRADING PAPERS FOR FAST FUNDS.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY...
THE TOMBS, AN ALL BUT
FORGOTTEN SUB-BASEMENT
OF THE LAW LIBRARY --

BUILT WHEN THE WORLD WAS
A SIMPLER... SLOWER PLACE.

3SIGH: I
SWEAR, CHARLES...
HAD I ONLY KNOWN
WHAT UTTER PLEASURE
I WAS IN FOR WITH
THIS WHOLE TRIAL
FARCE...

I WOULD
HAVE KILLED
YOU MONTHS
AGO.

THE
PLAN SEEMED
SOUND ENOUGH
AT THE OUTSET...
DRIVE MURDOCK
MAD BY MENTALLY
CRUSHING HIS
LADY LOVE...

BUT YOUR...
IMPROVISATIONS
ON THE BASIC PLAN
RUINED THAT.
"TRIPLE THREAT".
WHAT DRIVE!

WE
COULD HAVE
AVOIDED SO MUCH
UNPLEASANTNESS...
SO MANY UNFULFILLING
DEATHS IF YOU HAD
JUST STUCK TO
THE SCRIPT.

NNNGH...

BLESS
HIS SOUL...

YOU WERE
AN ARTIST,
CHARLIE... BUT YOU
HAD NO@#@#
DISCIPLINE.

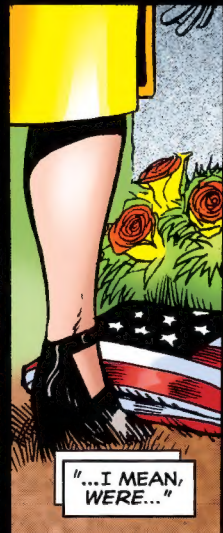
AND
WHAT YOU DID
TO THIS POOR
GIRL... I SHUDDER
TO THINK. SHE WAS
AN ENTREE TO
NELSON'S SISTER,
BUT STILL...

Oh,
WELL.
LIVE AND
LEARN.

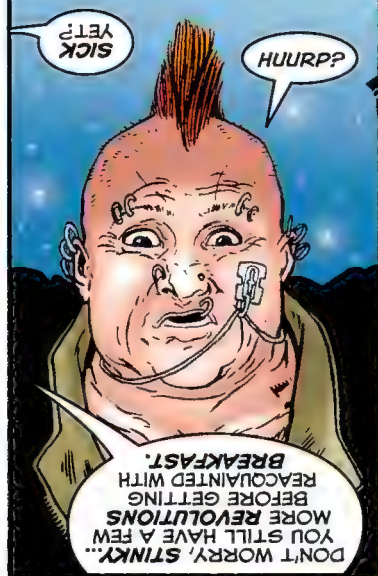
I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
PRESUMED TO
CONTAIN AN ANIMAL
LIKE YOU... YOUR
FATHER WAS
RIGHT...



"I'M GLAD I
PUT YOU DOWN
LIKE THE FILTHY
MONGREL
YOU ARE..



"...I MEAN,
WERE..."



SICK
YET?

HUURP?

DON'T WORRY, STINKY...
YOU STILL HAVE A FEW
MORE REVOLUTIONS
BEFORE GETTING
REACQUAINTED WITH
BREAKFAST.

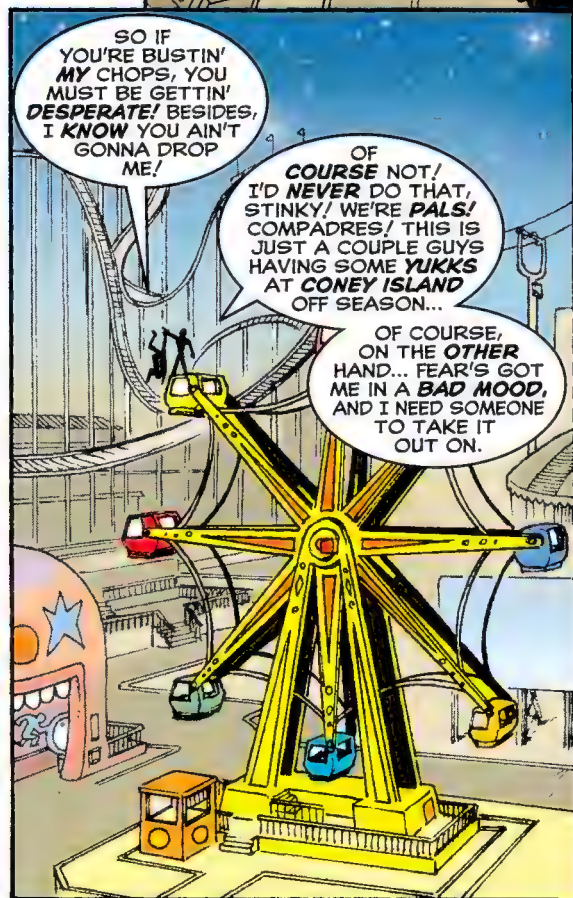


G-GIVE IT UP, DAREDEVIL!
I-I KNOW YOU GOT
NUTHIN' --

I'M
SORRY? I
COULDN'T HEAR
YOU OVER THE
**PANIC-INDUCED
STUTTERING...**

WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
TRY AGAIN? I'M
GETTING A
CRAMP.

I AIN'T
SEEN FEAR
IN MONTHS! HE
CUT ME LOOSE,
**EVERYONE
KNOWS
DAT!**



SO IF
YOU'RE BUSTIN'
MY CHOPS, YOU
MUST BE GETTIN'
DESPERATE! BESIDES,
I KNOW YOU AIN'T
GONNA DROP
ME!

OF
COURSE NOT!
I'D NEVER DO THAT,
STINKY! WE'RE **PALS!**
COMPADRES! THIS IS
JUST A COUPLE GUYS
HAVING SOME **YUKKS**
AT **CONEY ISLAND**
OFF SEASON...

OF COURSE,
ON THE **OTHER**
HAND... FEAR'S GOT
ME IN A **BAD MOOD**,
AND I NEED SOMEONE
TO TAKE IT
OUT ON.



I NOMINATE LOWLIFE
NUMBER **THREE** WITH
THE **BAD B.O.** AND
THE **WEIGHT**
PROBLEM.

BAH! A
QUARTER FELL
OUT OF MY POCKET --
GO CALL SOMEONE
WHO GIVES A **CRAP**
AND LET ME
GO!



"SIGH: YOU
KNOW IT'S A
BAD DAY WHEN
EVEN **SEWER
RATS** CALL
YOUR BLUFF --"

**WHAAH
THP!**



YOU'RE
WASTING TIME.
**DROP HIM AND
LET'S MOVE
ON.**

HER **HEARTBEAT**
CAUGHT MY **HYPER-
SENSITIVE EAR** A
SPLIT **SECOND**
BEFORE THE **SAI**
FOUND ITS MARK...

ELEKTRA.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE --

...TINY PERFECT
EXPLOSIONS.
DETONATING IN
SYNCH WITH THE
PULSE OF THE
WORLD...

I SAW
THE NEWS.
KAREN.

THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
NEED... SOME
COMPAN --

-- NEED
SOME
HELP.

HEY!
WHO IS **THAT?!**
WHAT'S GOING
ON?!

I DO... SHE WAS
FRAMED... I'M HAVING
A **DEVIL** OF A TIME
PROVING IT, BUT
YOU...

...LAST I
HEARD... YOUR
NOSE WASN'T SO
**CLEAN ANY-
MORE.**

IT
NEVER
WAS.

I
CAN'T WORK WITH
A **KILLER, ELEKTRA...**
IS IT **TRUE?**

MATT... THIS
WASN'T **EASY,**
COMING HERE...
DO YOU WANT
MY HELP OR
NOT?



I COULD REALLY **USE** YOU BY MY SIDE, ELEKTRA...

...BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE **GUTTING** ANYONE IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE...

...
TOUGH, ISN'T IT?



TO PLAY THE **RIGHTEOUS HERO** WHEN THOSE YOU OPPOSE --

-- STRIKE SO CLOSE TO THE SEAT OF YOUR **GOODNESS?**

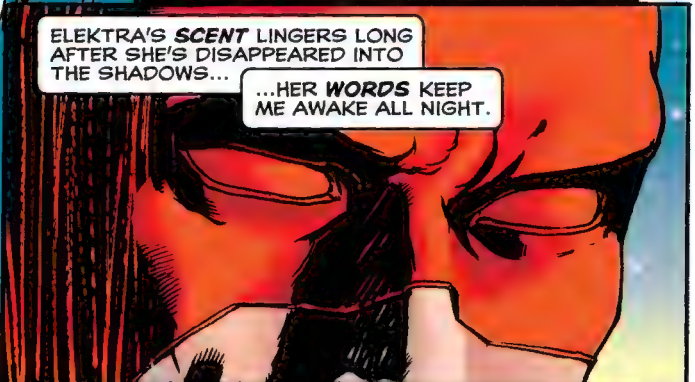


OW!

A LITTLE **ADVICE** FROM A FRIEND...



... **BEGGARS** CAN'T BE **CHOOSERS**, DEVIL. FOR **KAREN'S** SAKE...



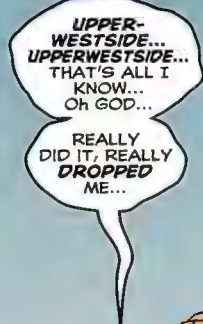
ELEKTRA'S **SCENT** LINGERS LONG AFTER SHE'S DISAPPEARED INTO THE SHADOWS...

...HER **WORDS** KEEP ME AWAKE ALL NIGHT.



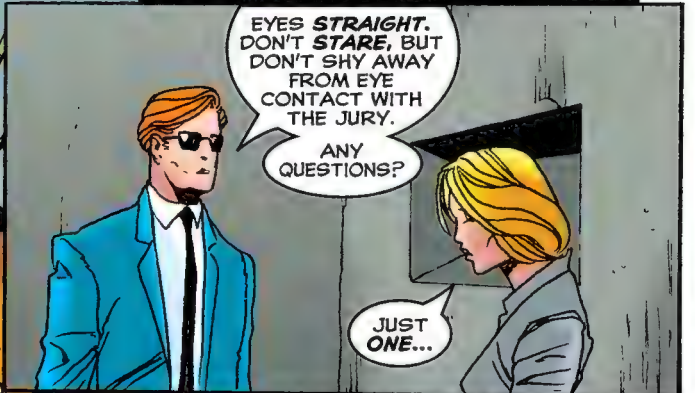
...DON'T LET **PRIDE** KEEP YOU FROM ACCEPTING **HELP**.

NO MATTER **WHAT FORM** IT'S IN.



UPPER-WESTSIDE...
UPPERWESTSIDE...
THAT'S ALL I KNOW...
Oh GOD...

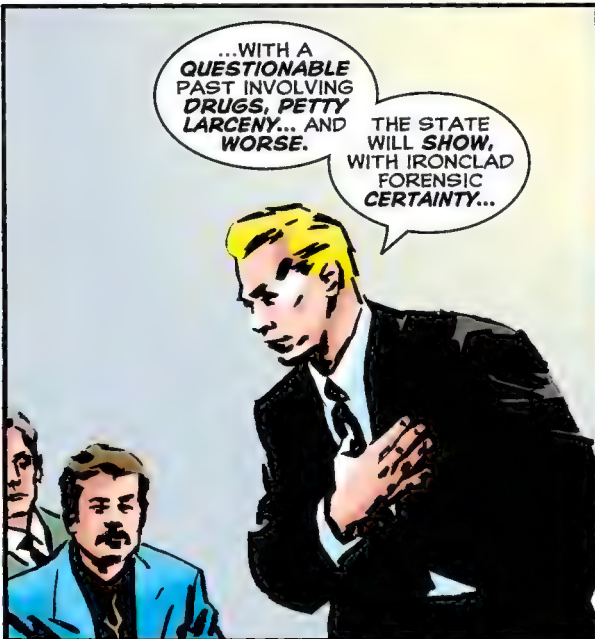
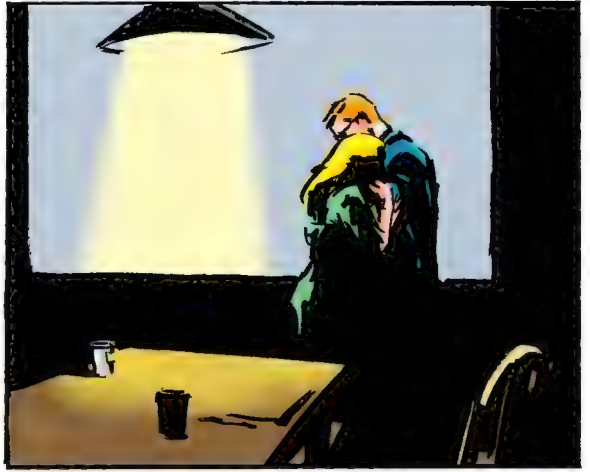
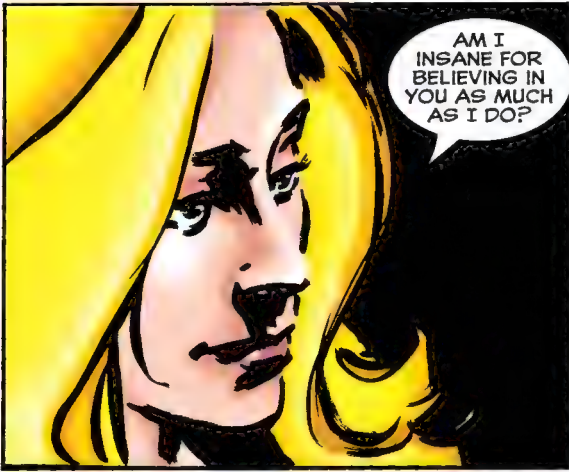
REALLY DID IT, REALLY **DROPPED** ME...

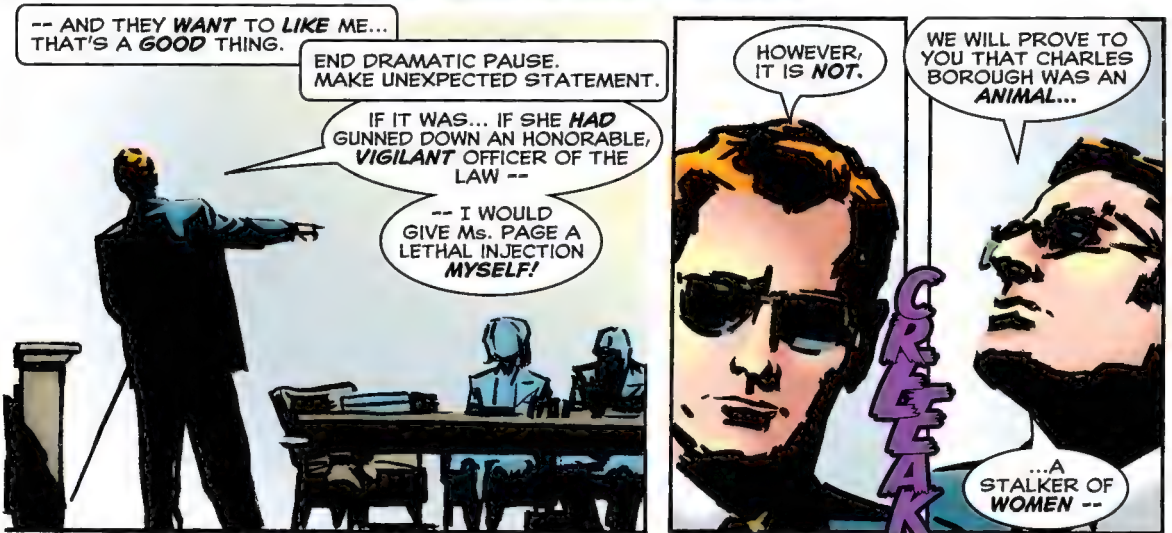
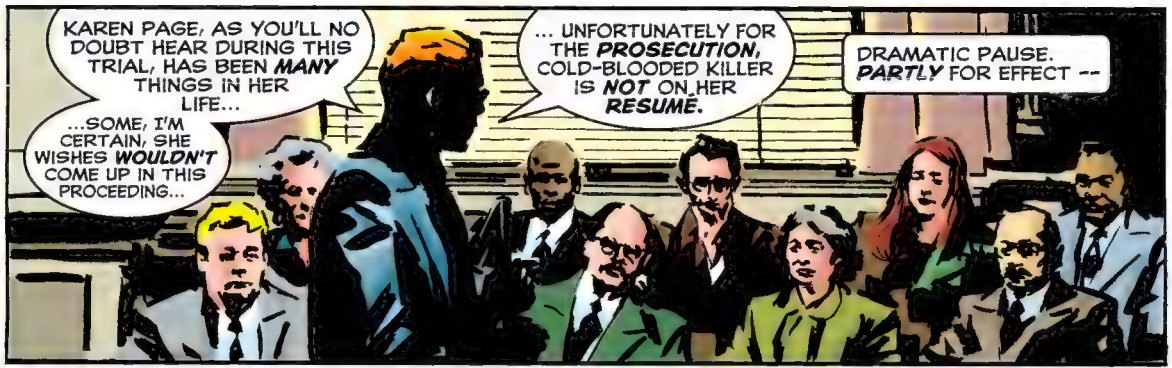


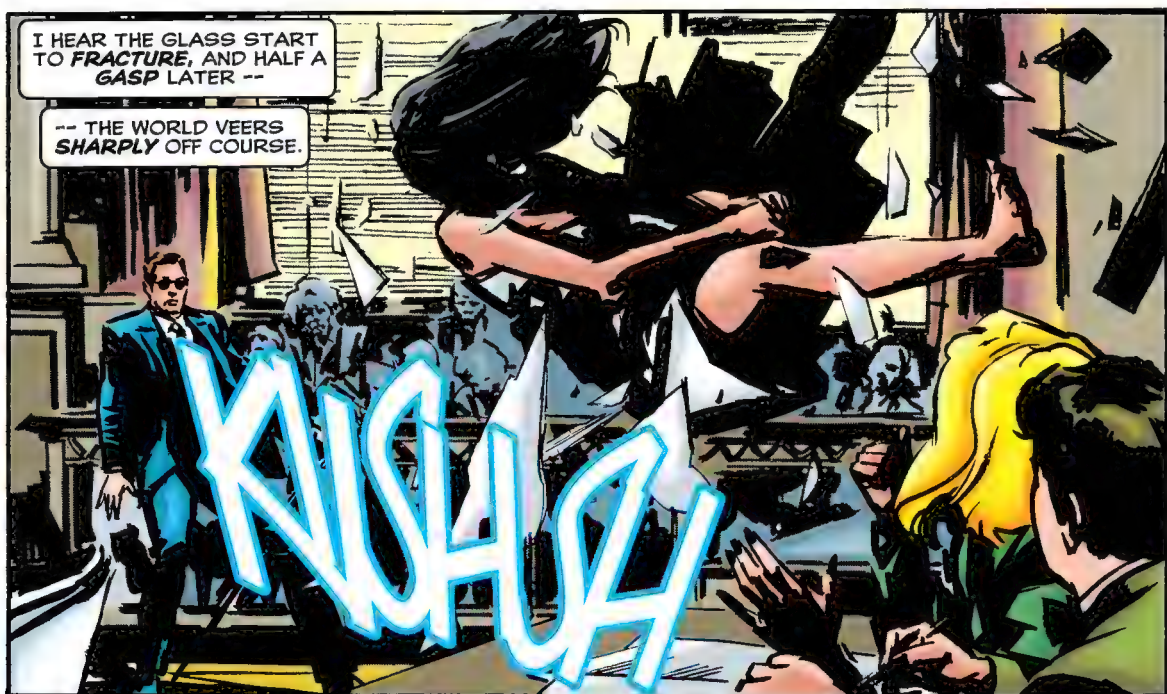
EYES **STRAIGHT**. DON'T **STARE**, BUT DON'T SHY AWAY FROM EYE CONTACT WITH THE JURY.

ANY **QUESTIONS?**

JUST **ONE...**







I HEAR THE GLASS START
TO **FRACTURE**, AND HALF A
GASP LATER --

-- THE WORLD VEERS
SHARPLY OFF COURSE.



DEAR GOD!

-- **AMBULANCE** --

-- UNIT
ON THE
ROOF!



AND GOD HELP ME,
THE **FIRST** THOUGHT
TO ENTER MY MIND
WAS...

...THERE
GOES MY
CASE.

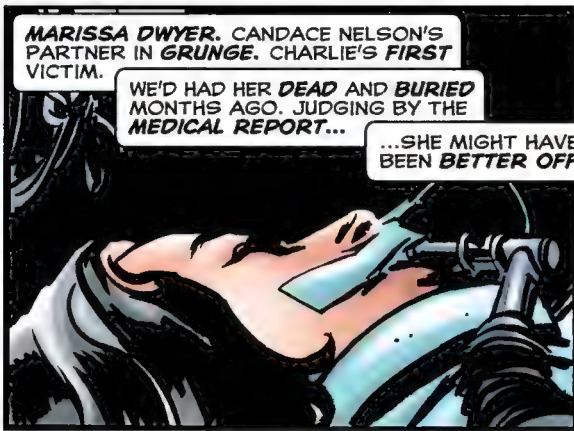


THE TRIAL
OF KAREN
PAGE TOOK AN
INTERESTING
TWIST
TODAY --

-- WHEN
A **SURPRISE**
WITNESS BROKE
PROTOCOL AND
APPEARED DURING
OPENING
REMARKS.

IS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
JOKE?

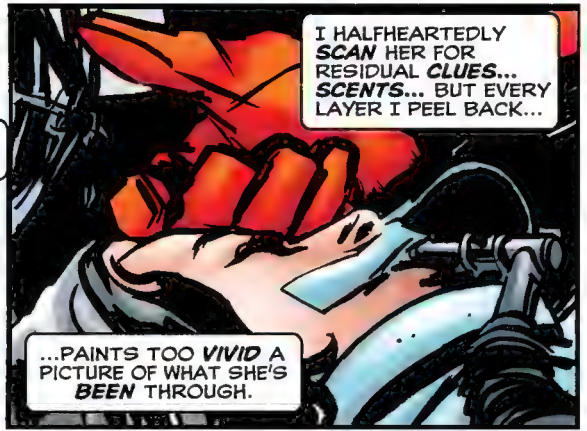
JUST TRYING
TO ADD A LITTLE
LEVITY TO THIS
TRAGIC, TRAGIC
DEVELOPMENT,
JOANIE.



MARISSA DWYER. CANDACE NELSON'S PARTNER IN *GRUNGE*. CHARLIE'S FIRST VICTIM.

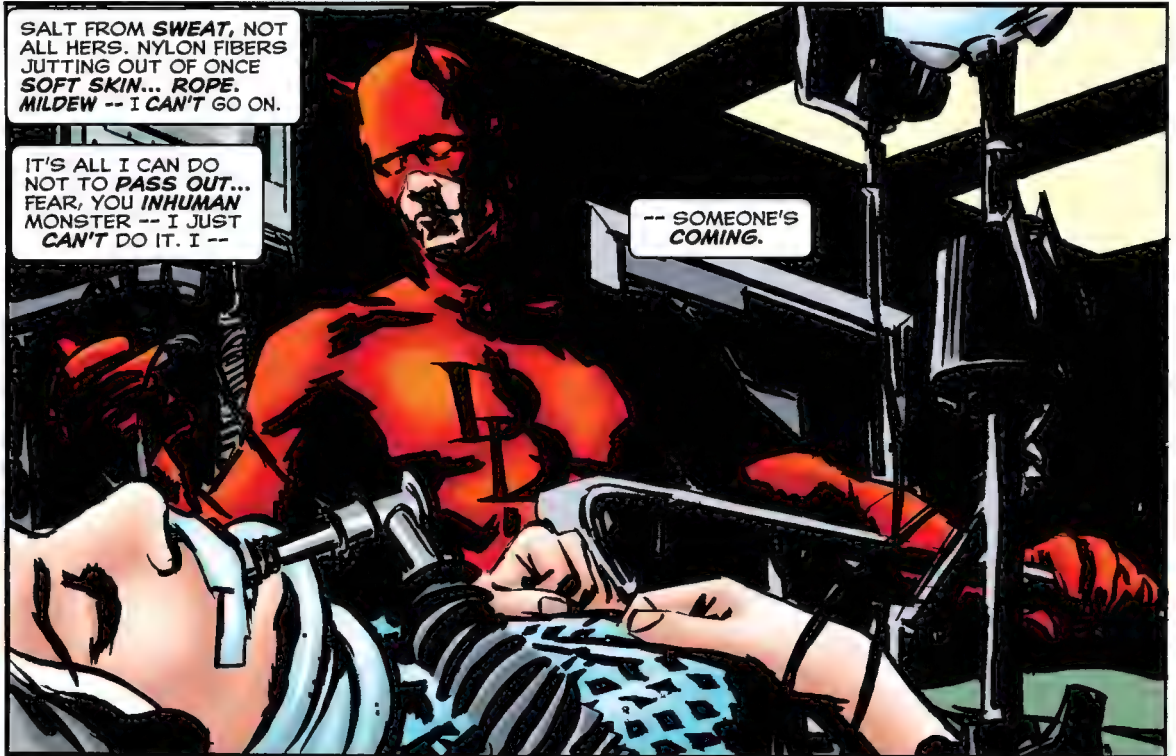
WE'D HAD HER DEAD AND BURIED MONTHS AGO. JUDGING BY THE MEDICAL REPORT...

...SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF.



I HALFHEARTEDLY SCAN HER FOR RESIDUAL CLUES... SCENTS... BUT EVERY LAYER I PEEL BACK...

...PAINTS TOO VIVID A PICTURE OF WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH.



SALT FROM SWEAT, NOT ALL HERS. NYLON FIBERS JUTTING OUT OF ONCE SOFT SKIN... ROPE. MILDEW -- I CAN'T GO ON.

IT'S ALL I CAN DO NOT TO PASS OUT... FEAR, YOU INHUMAN MONSTER -- I JUST CAN'T DO IT. I --

-- SOMEONE'S COMING.



WELL NOW... AREN'T WE A MESS?

THAT VOICE... NO... I'M JUST TIRED --

FEELING PRETTY DOWN, I'D IMAGINE... AFRAID? SICK?



WELL, DON'T WORRY, DARLING... YOU HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL LOOKING OUT FOR YOU. I KNOW... I CAN FEEL HIM.

FUNNY THING ABOUT GUARDIAN ANGELS...

THEY ONLY KNOW TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU ASK OUT LOUD.

PLEASE, MATTHEW... HAVE FAITH. YOU CAN SAVE HER.



"I BELIEVE IN YOU."



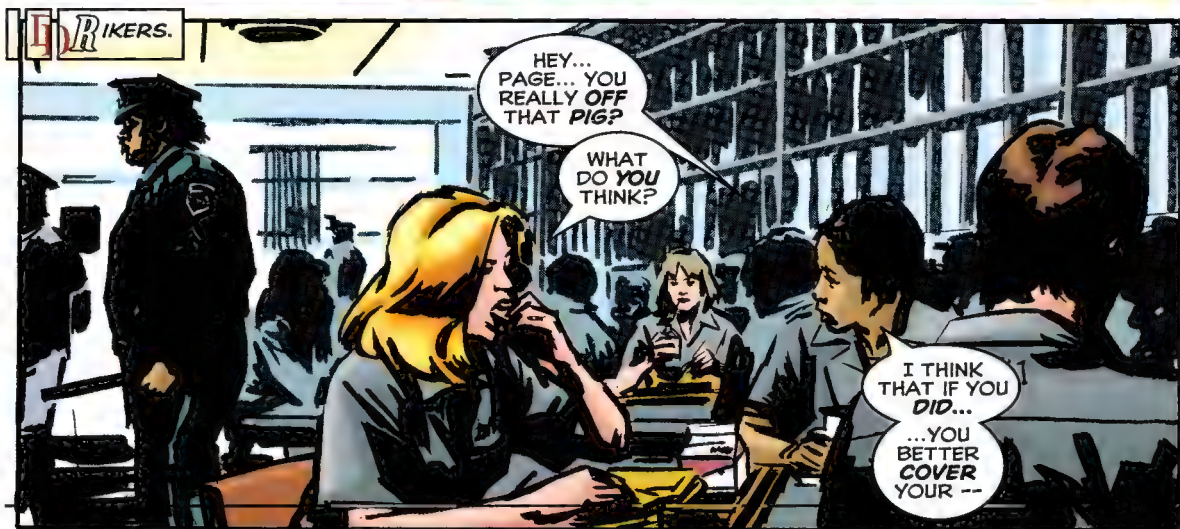
MAGGIE?

MOM?

...

I **STILL** DON'T WANT TO DO THIS... BUT WITH HER **VOICE**... THOSE **WORDS**... THE ACID IN MY STOMACH **RETREATS** JUST ENOUGH...

...NYLON FIBERS, ROPE...
MILDEW... MILDEW...



HEY...
PAGE... YOU
REALLY OFF
THAT **PIG**?

WHAT
DO **YOU**
THINK?

I THINK
THAT IF YOU
DID...
...YOU
BETTER
COVER
YOUR ---



BEAT IT,
PERP.

OFFICER
SMILEY, LOVELY
TO SEE YOU.
FINGER
SANDWICH?



FRESH **BODY**
SORT OF BLOWS
THE WHOLE "**OFFICER**
AS STALKER"
THEORY, **DON'T**
IT, PAGE?



I'M GONNA
GIVE IT TO
YOU **BAD, COP**
KILLER... **DON'T**
SLEEP.



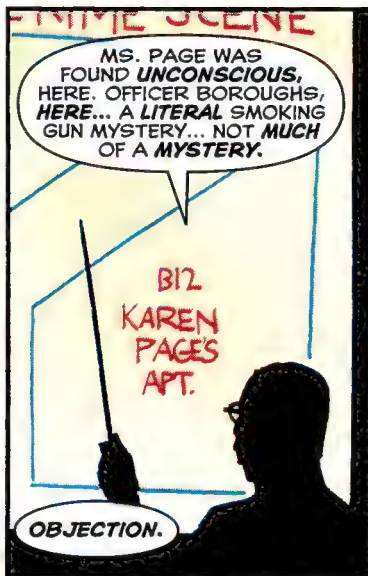
CRASH

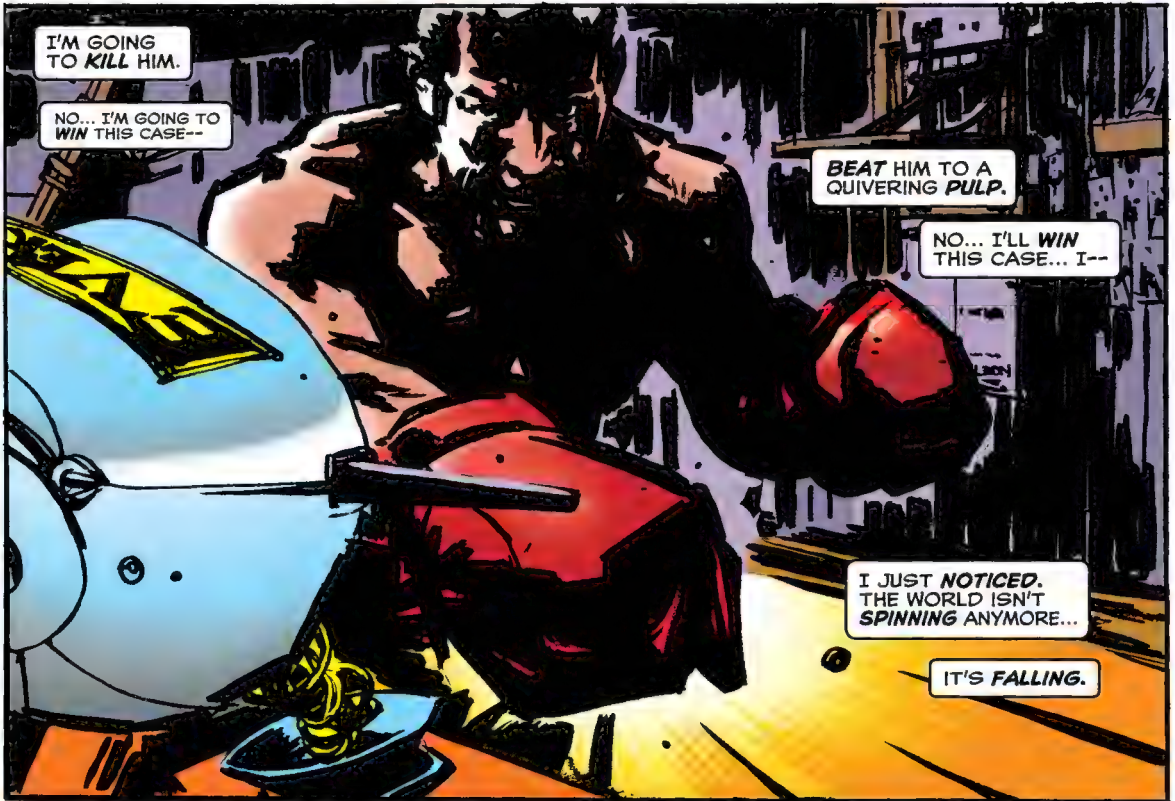
...**THIRD DAY**
OF TESTIMONY,
AND TO BE QUITE
FRANK, I'M NOT SURE
WHERE **MURDOCK**
AND COMPANY
CAN GO.

THE "**TRIPLE**
THREAT" **STALKER**
HAS **RESURFACED**,
AND THE PROSECUTION
LAUNCHED A **PRECISION**
ATTACK AGAINST **PAGE**
WITH THE INTRODUCTION
OF THEIR
WITNESSES..



IS THAT
AN **ELECTRIC**
CHAIR I HEAR
WARMING
UP?





I'M GOING TO **KILL** HIM.

NO... I'M GOING TO **WIN** THIS CASE--

BEAT HIM TO A QUIVERING PULP.

NO... I'LL **WIN** THIS CASE... I--

I JUST **NOTICED**. THE WORLD ISN'T **SPINNING** ANYMORE...

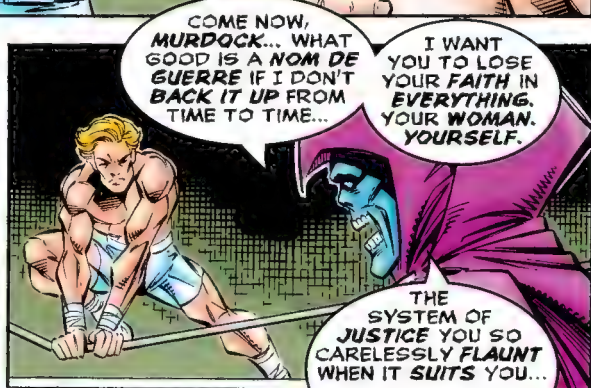
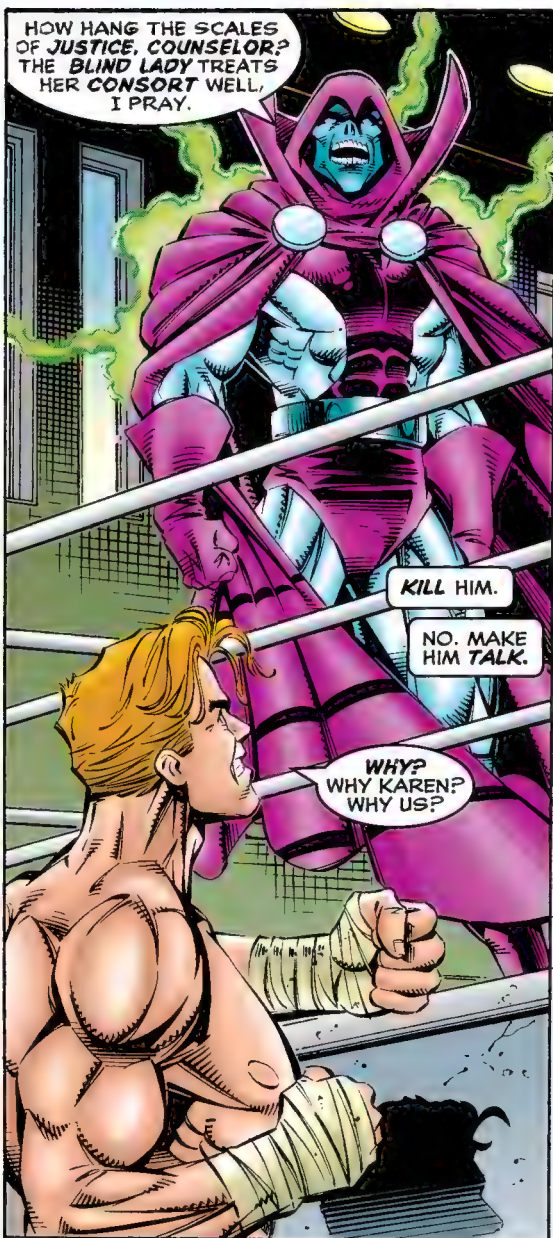
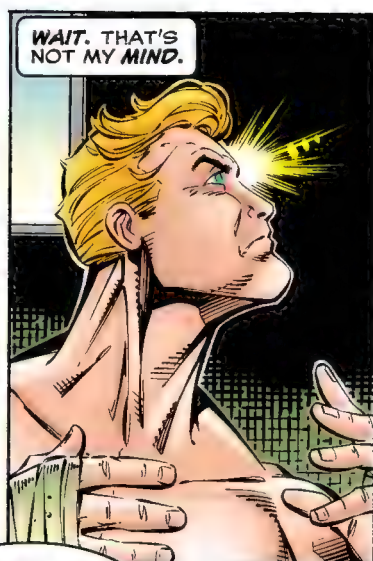
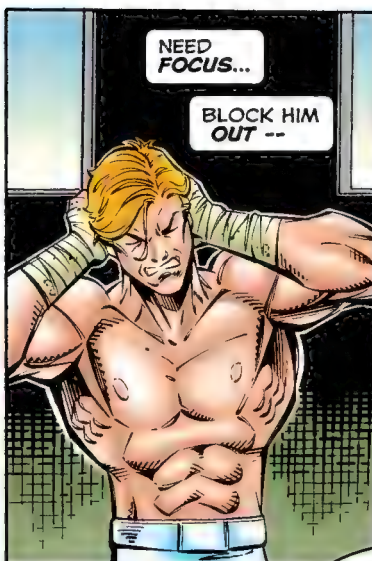
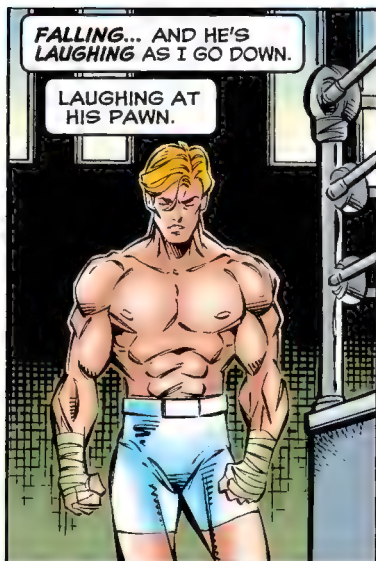
IT'S **FALLING**.

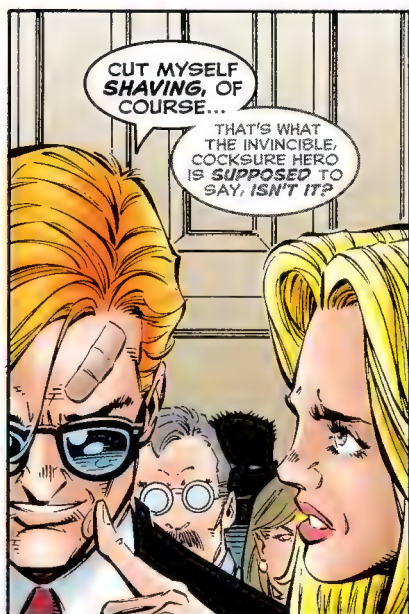
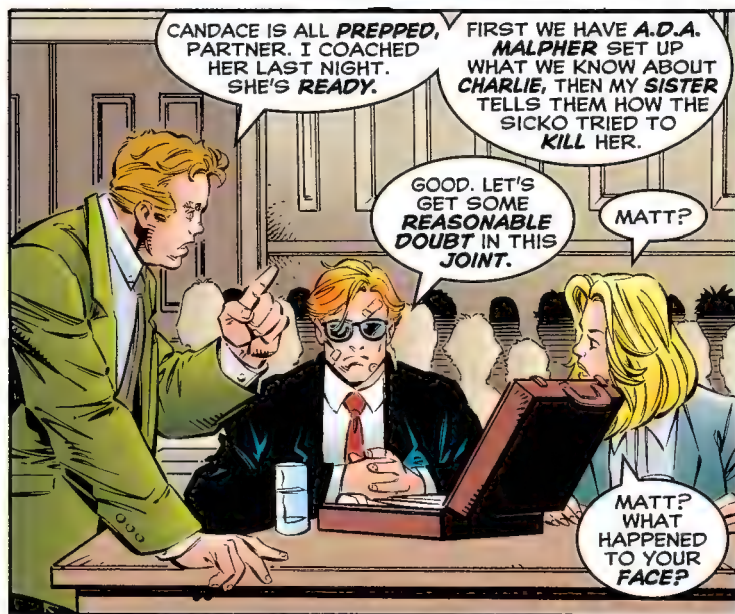
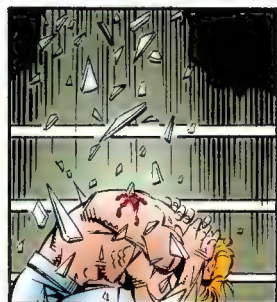
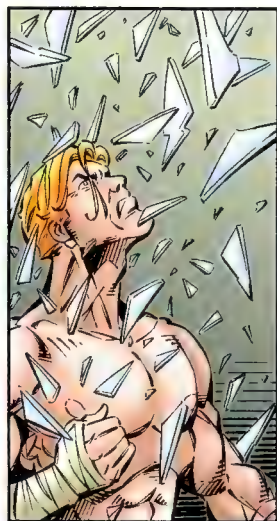
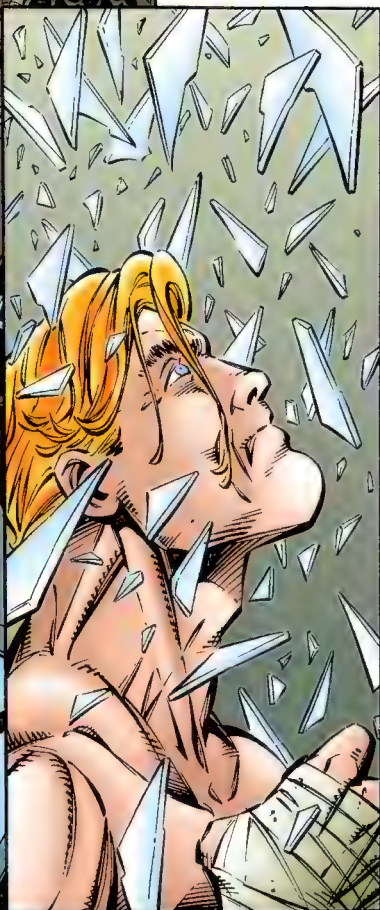
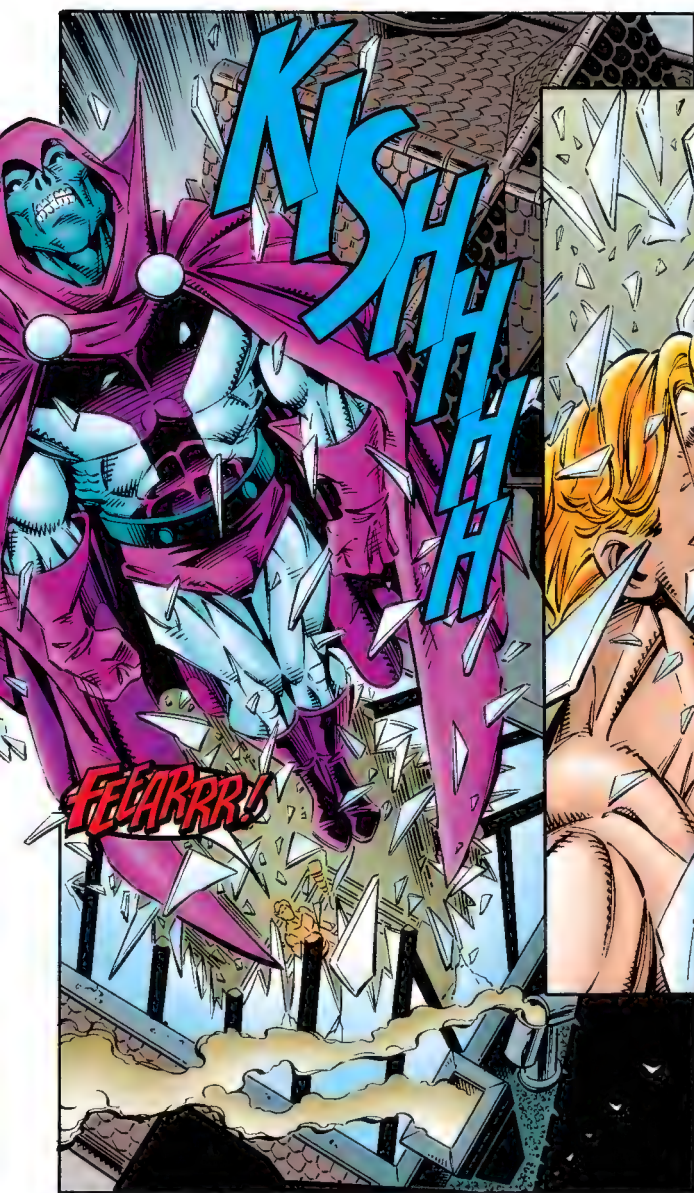
THAT WOMAN'S PAST HAS **NO BEARING** ON THIS CASE?!

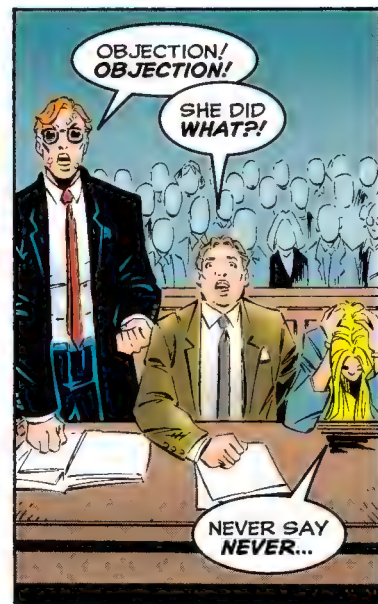
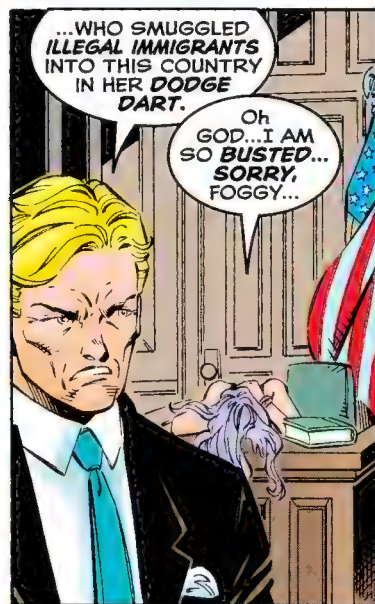
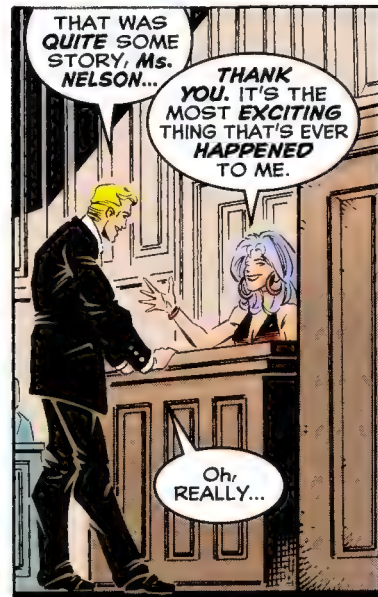
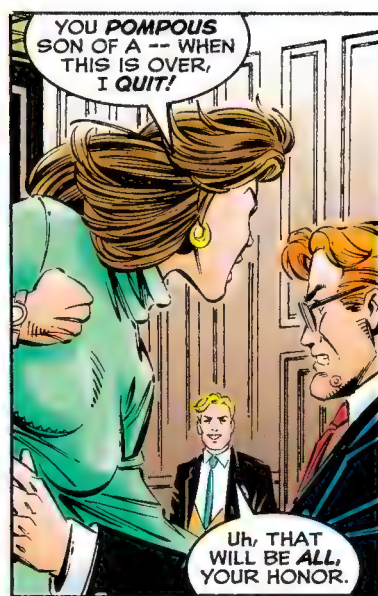
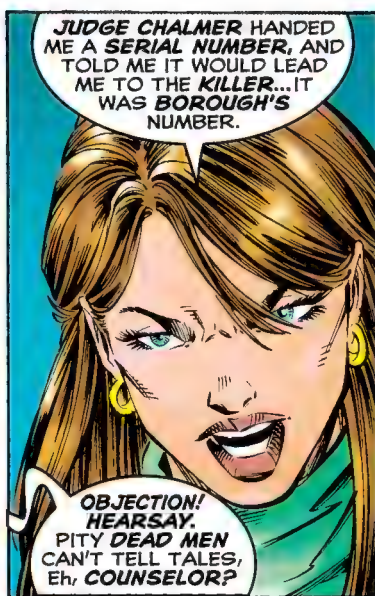
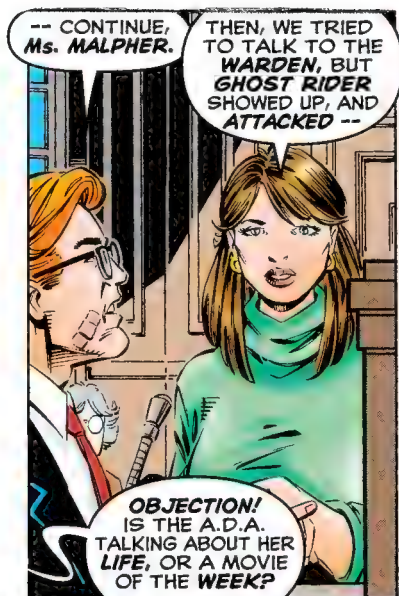
WHAT'S THE JUDGE GOING TO **DOP** MAKE D.A. TOWER TAKE IT **BACK**? NO... WHAT'S DONE IS **DONE**.

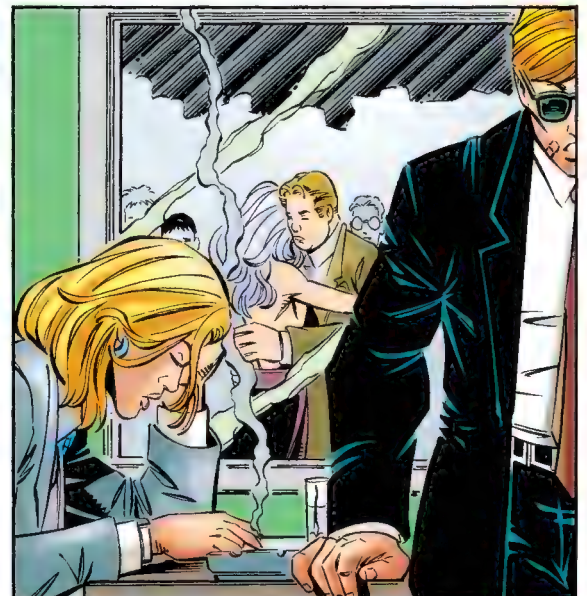
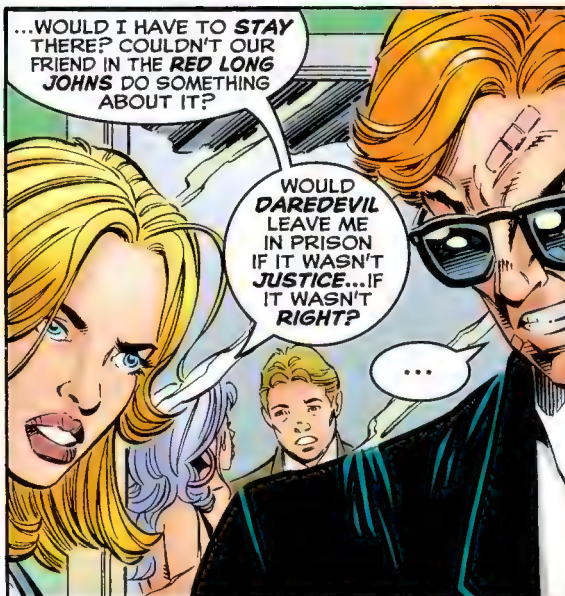
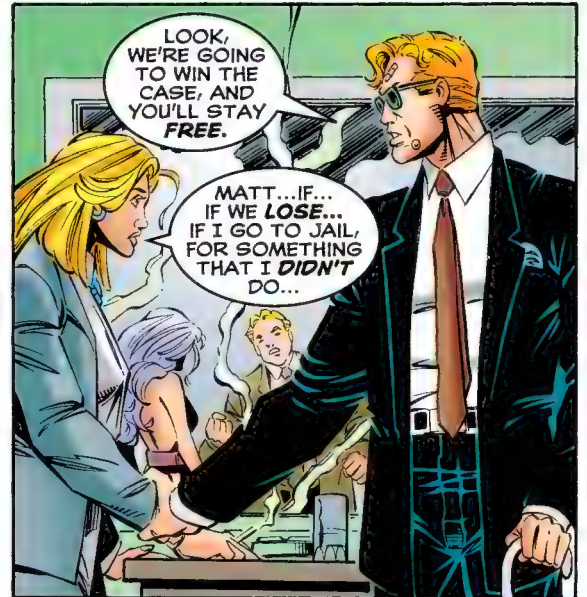
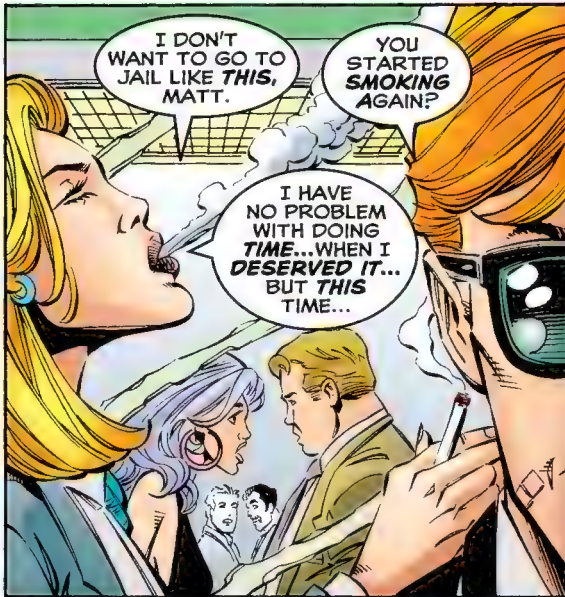
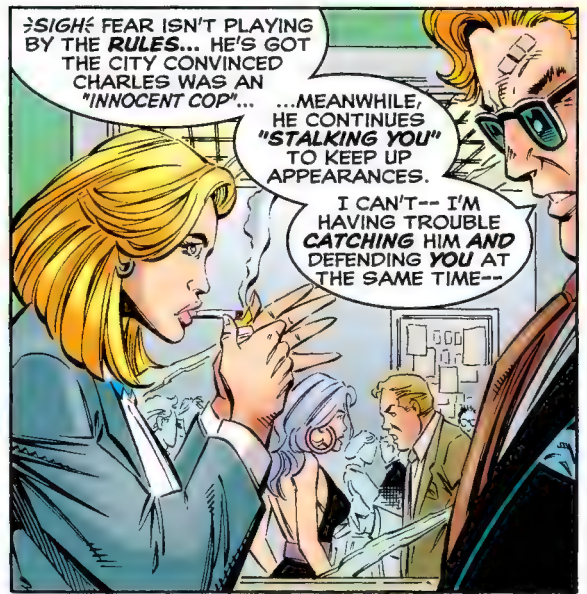
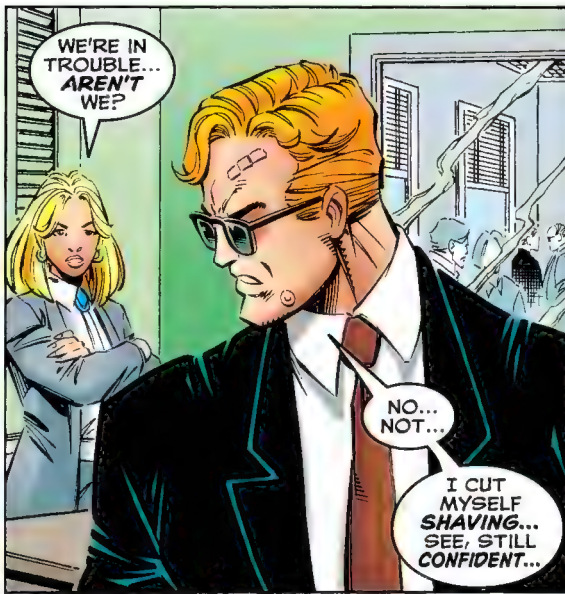
MURDOCK HAS GOT **SMOKING GUN**, AN **EX-HEROIN ADDICT PROSTITUTE** AND A DEAD **COP**... HE'S UP THE **CREEK**.

THOUGH PERHAPS IF HE HAD BEEN **SMART** ENOUGH TO LET SOMEONE **ELSE** DEFEND HIS GIRLFRIEND, SHE MIGHT HAVE **STOOD A CHANCE**.











IS *THIS* ROCK BOTTOM?



BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M *FALLING* ANYMORE...

...MORE LIKE, MAYBE I ALREADY *CRASHED*...



...AND MY SPIRIT'S JUST *WAITING* FOR MY *BODY* TO CATCH UP.



YOU CAN COME OUT NOW, *WIDOW*. NO ONE'S BREAKING ANYONE OUT OF PRISON TONIGHT...



TOO BAD, *DARLING*...IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN *FUN* TO CHASE YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE AND *CHAIN* YOU UP LIKE A *BAD BOY*.

...BUT TRY AGAIN WHEN THE *VERDICT'S* IN, *NATASHA*. MAYBE YOU'LL GET A WORKOUT *THEN*.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD TRY IT, *REALLY*...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE A SWING AT A *REPORTER* EITHER.



SHE DOESN'T THINK I CAN WIN THIS CASE, *NATASHA*.

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

I...I DON'T KNOW...I *THOUGHT* I COULD. BUT FEAR'S TURNING THE SYSTEM *AGAINST* ME... I CAN'T BUY *JUDGES* AND *FORGE* REPORTS AND HAVE PEOPLE *PERJURE* THEMSELVES TO GET *KAREN* OFF...

...BUT HE CAN DO *ANYTHING*.



MAYBE,
BUT YOU HAVE
SOMETHING **BETTER**.
FEAR IS WORKING
FROM A POSITION
OF **HATE**... AND YES,
HATE DOES BURN
BRIGHT --

-- BUT
YOUR **LOVE**...
FOR **KAREN**
...IT GLOWS
BRIGHTER.

SOUNDS
FUNNY, COMING
FROM YOU.

MAYBE,
BUT WHO
WOULD KNOW
BETTER?

MATT,
KAREN MAY
HAVE HER **DOUBTS**,
BUT IN HER **HEART**,
SHE **KNOWS** THAT
YOU WOULD DIVE
STRAIGHT INTO
HELL FOR
HER...

...AND
SHE WOULD
GLADLY
FOLLOW.

SHE
KNOWS
YOU **WON'T**
LET HER
DOWN.

HOW
CAN YOU
BE SO
SURE?

BECAUSE...
YOU NEVER
LET **ME** DOWN.
EVER.

THANKS,
TASHA...

THANK
YOU.

ELSEWHERE...

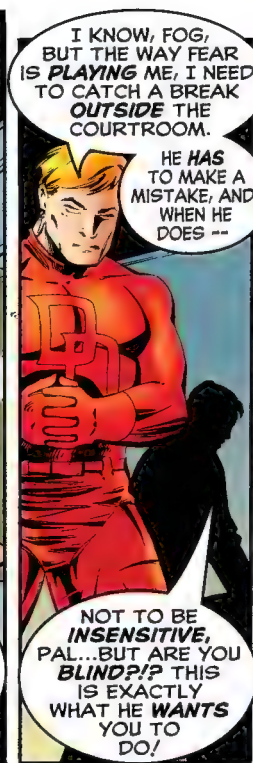


WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID LAUNDRY?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GOT **REAL** SLEEP?

THAT'S NOT FUNNY. IT'S SCARY.

MATT...I KNOW YOU NEED TO DO...YOU KNOW, THE DD THING...BUT WE'RE GETTING **SLAMMED** OUT THERE. WE NEED **FOCUS**--



I KNOW, FOG, BUT THE WAY FEAR IS **PLAYING** ME, I NEED TO CATCH A BREAK **OUTSIDE** THE COURTROOM.

HE **HAS** TO MAKE A MISTAKE, AND WHEN HE DOES --

NOT TO BE **INSENSITIVE**, PAL...BUT ARE YOU **BLIND**?! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HE **WANTS** YOU TO DO!



HE WANTS YOU TO SPEND ALL NIGHT HUNTING HIM, AND ALL DAY GETTING **FRUSTRATED**!

YOU CANNOT WIN LIKE THIS!



IS IT WORTH NAILING THE **BAD GUY** IF KAREN GETS THE **CHAIR**?!?



--AS THE TRIAL NEARS ITS FINAL PHASE, ALL INDICATORS POINT TO A **GUILTY** VERDICT FOR KAREN PAGE.

LOOKS LIKE EVEN **MURDOCK**, KNOWN FOR **SPECTACULAR SAVES** IN THE COURTROOM, WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK HIS **MAGIC** HERE--

--NOT UNLESS HE'S GOT A **GUARDIAN ANGEL** ON HIS **SHOULDER**--

IT'S NOT MAGIC...IT'S ALWAYS SKILL WITH **MURDOCK**... ALWAYS.

PAI, THE LEAR. **TWENTY MINUTES**.

WE'RE GOING **HOME**.



"WHEN YOU HIT **BOTTOM**...
WHEN YOUR **BEST FRIEND**
IMPLIES THAT YOU MIGHT
KILL THE WOMAN YOU LOVE...

"THERE'S REALLY NOWHERE
LEFT TO GO BUT UP.

"ASSUMING ONE
HAS STRENGTH
LEFT TO **CLIMB**."

BUT
**MURDERS AND
SUPER HEROES**
ARE SO OUT
OF MY DEPTH.

THEY
NEVER TOLD
US ABOUT THIS
SORT OF THING
IN **SCHOOL**...
GUMMED UP **TAPES**,
SKIPPING **CD'S**,
SURE...

THE COMPUTERS ARE **WRONG**...
I CAN PICK OUT **FEAR'S** VOICE, NO
MATTER **HOW** HE DISGUISES IT...
BUT I **CAN'T** PROVE IT IN COURT.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M
TORTURING MYSELF...LISTENING
TO FEAR **GIGGLE** ABOUT THE FUN
AND GAMES HE HAS IN STORE
FOR KAREN IS JUST--

MINE TOO.
APPARENTLY.
GO FOR IT.

WHOA.

I'VE BEEN SO
OBSESSED WITH
FEAR...I DIDN'T EVEN
THINK TO LISTEN
TO EVERYTHING
ELSE ON THE **TAPE**.

SPACES
BETWEEN
WORDS...

...DRAMATIC **PAUSES**...

BACKGROUND NOISE.

A **SUBWAY**. FROM
THE ECHO, AND THE
DEPTH OF THE SOUND,
IT'S LITERALLY FEET
AWAY, UNDERGROUND,
SEPARATED BY
CONCRETE.

I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE GONNA
HEAR, I'VE ALREADY
RUN THESE TAPES
THROUGH THE MACHINE
FIFTY TIMES, AND
THEY'RE A
MATCH.

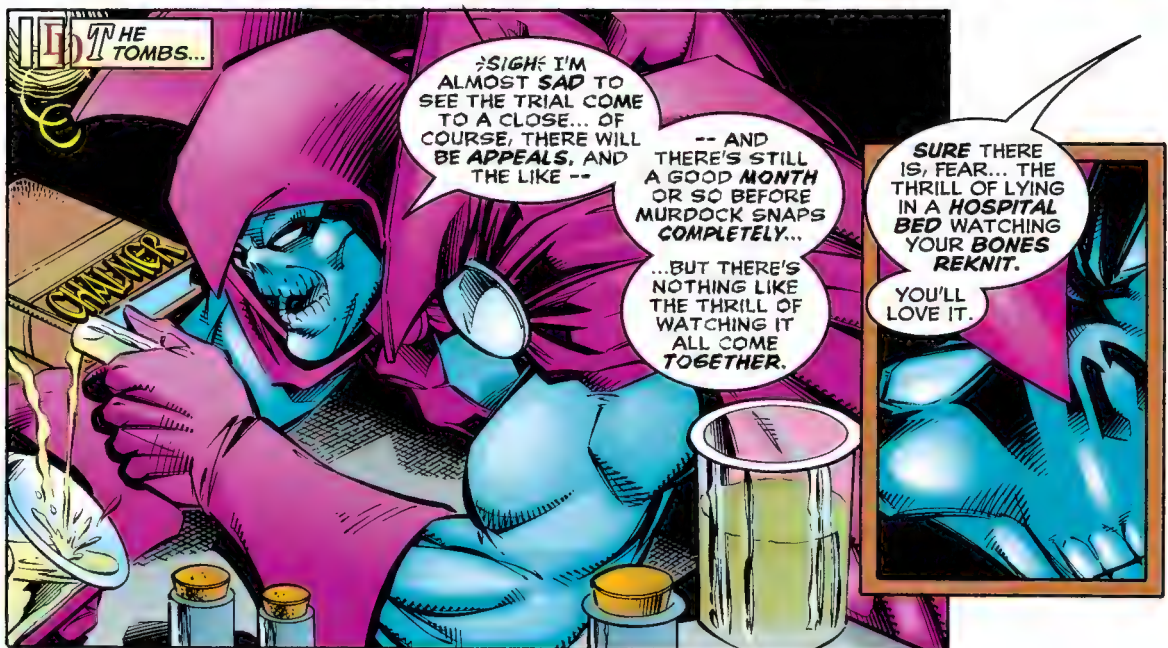
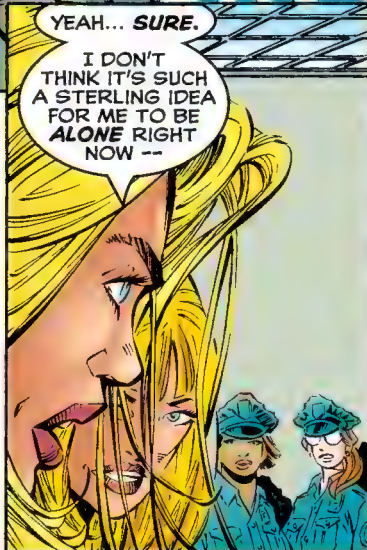
SO
YOU SAID...
HUMOR
ME.

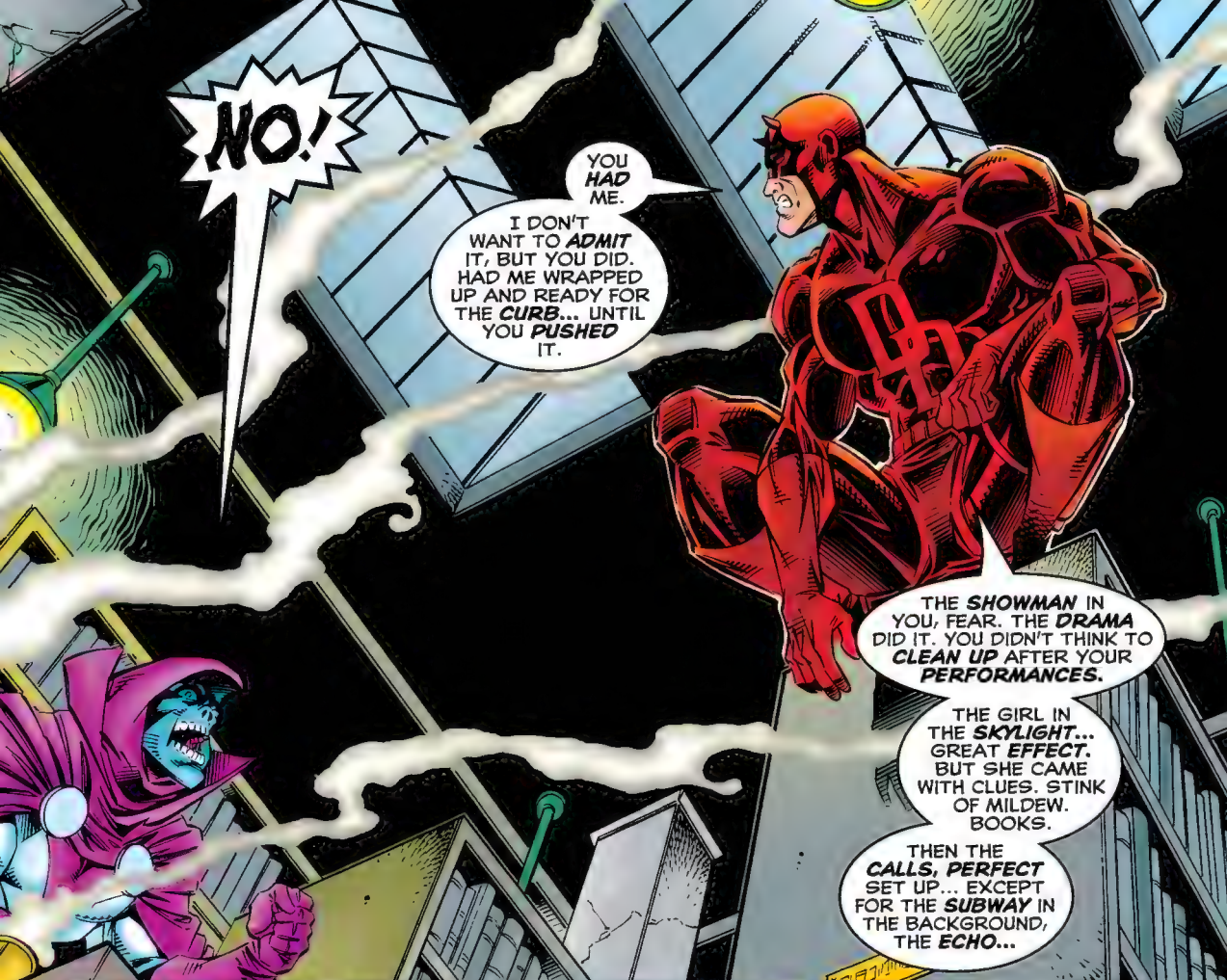
PIECES START TO
CONGEAL...**MARISSA**.
MARISSA--MILDEW.

NOT JUST THE REEK OF
SUBTERRANEAN...
BUT THE STENCH THAT
YOU GET WHEN RIFLING
THROUGH OLD **BOOKS**.

LAW
BOOKS.

NAILED.





NO!

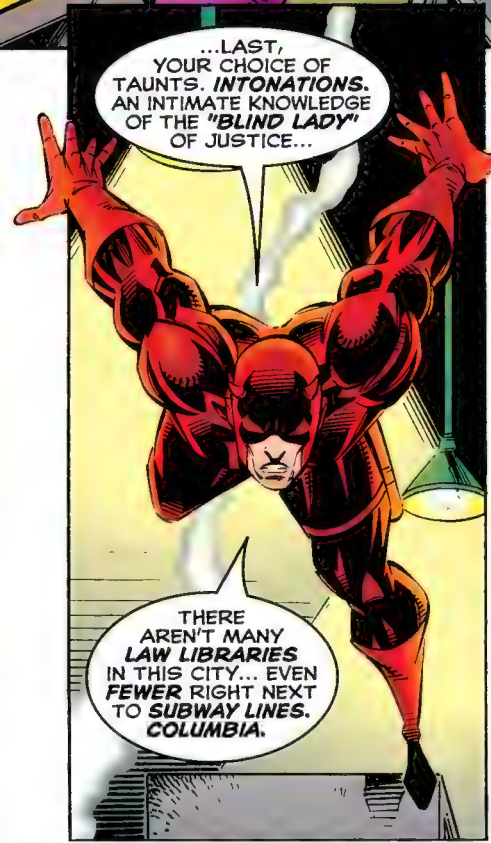
YOU
HAD
ME.

I DON'T
WANT TO **ADMIT**
IT, BUT YOU DID.
HAD ME WRAPPED
UP AND READY FOR
THE **CURB...** UNTIL
YOU **PUSHED**
IT.

THE **SHOWMAN** IN
YOU, FEAR. THE **DRAMA**
DID IT. YOU DIDN'T THINK TO
CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR
PERFORMANCES.

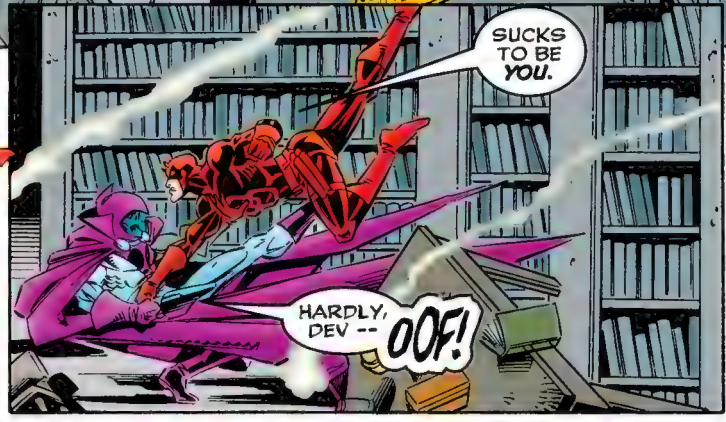
THE GIRL IN
THE **SKYLIGHT...**
GREAT **EFFECT.**
BUT SHE CAME
WITH CLUES. STINK
OF MILDEW.
BOOKS.

THEN THE
CALLS, PERFECT
SET UP... EXCEPT
FOR THE **SUBWAY** IN
THE BACKGROUND,
THE **ECHO...**



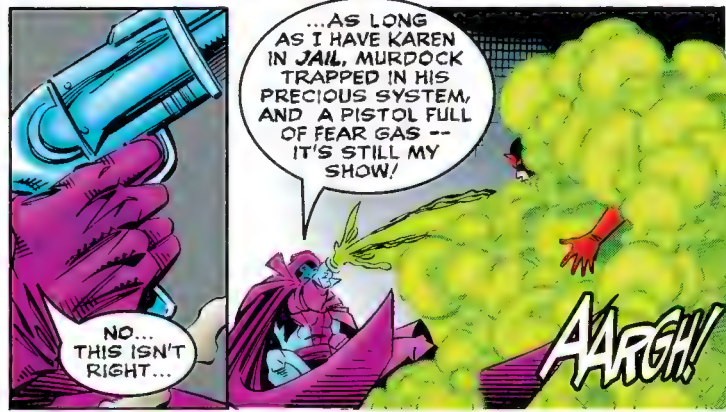
...LAST,
YOUR CHOICE OF
TAUNTS. **INTONATIONS.**
AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE "**BLIND LADY**"
OF JUSTICE...

THERE
AREN'T MANY
LAW LIBRARIES
IN THIS CITY... EVEN
FEWER RIGHT NEXT
TO **SUBWAY LINES.**
COLUMBIA.



SUCKS
TO BE
YOU.

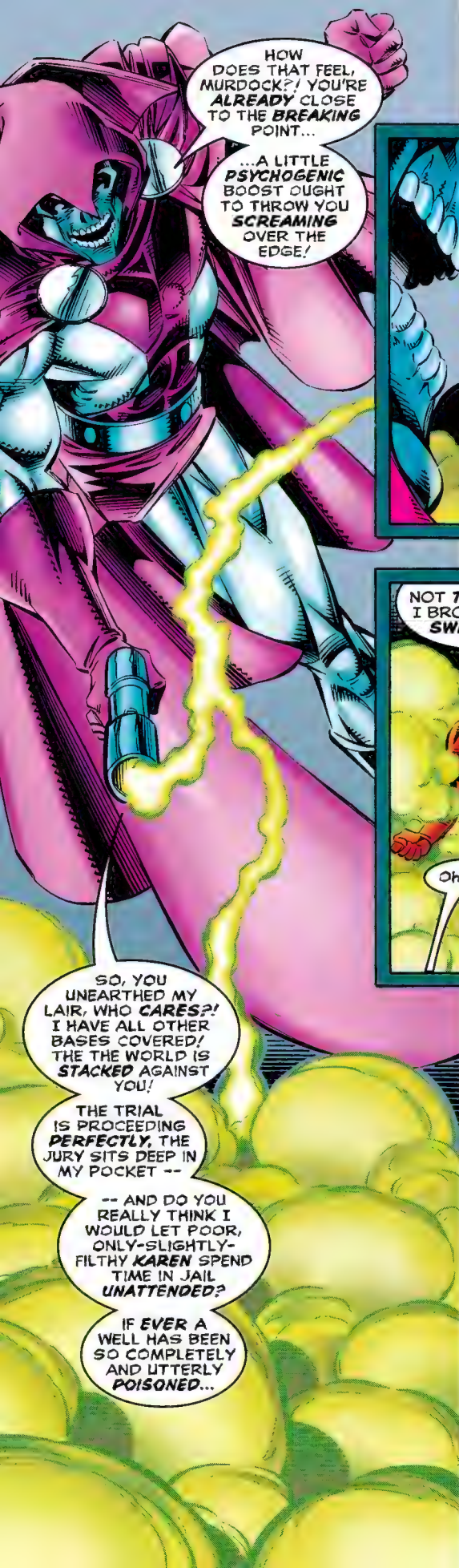
HARDLY,
DEV -- **OOF!**



...AS LONG
AS I HAVE KAREN
IN **JAIL,** MURDOCK
TRAPPED IN HIS
PRECIOUS SYSTEM,
AND A PISTOL FULL
OF FEAR GAS --
IT'S STILL MY
SHOW!

NO...
THIS ISN'T
RIGHT...

AARGH!



HOW DOES THAT FEEL, MURDOCK? YOU'RE **ALREADY** CLOSE TO THE **BREAKING** POINT...

...A LITTLE **PSYCHOGENIC** BOOST OUGHT TO THROW YOU **SCREAMING** OVER THE **EDGE!**



...IT IS THE ONE YOU'RE **DROWNING** IN NOW.

NO.



NOT **THIS** TIME. I BROUGHT MY **SWIMMIES**.

Oh, MY.



KRAAK

I MAY BE EASY TO MANIPULATE AND A TAD **DENSE** AT TIMES... BUT I'M NOT REALLY **STUPID!**

HOW MUCH **MILEAGE** DID YOU PLAN TO GET OUT OF THE "**FEAR** GAS IN THE **FACE** ROUTINE"?

IT'S **OVER**, **FEAR**. YOU MAY HAVE SWINDLED YOUR WAY **THIS** FAR -- BUT THE **GAMES** STOP **HERE**.

YOU CAN'T **FOOL** ME ANY MORE. I KNOW WHERE I **STAND**. MY FAITH IS **UNSHAKABLE**. I'M SOLID ON **EARTH**.



N- NO... **NOT** OVER... YET... SO LONG AS YOU DON'T GET **THIS** --



I'M NOT **AFRAID** ANYMORE.

DEET

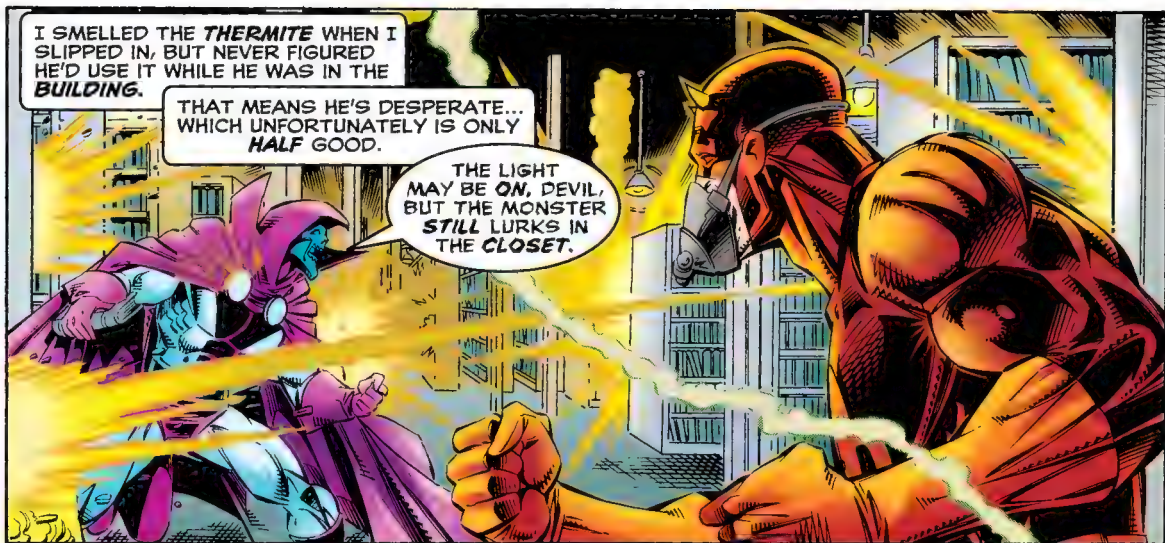
GOOD FOR YOU.

SO, YOU UNEARTHED MY LAIR, WHO CARES? I HAVE ALL OTHER BASES COVERED! THE WORLD IS **STACKED** AGAINST YOU!

THE TRIAL IS PROCEEDING **PERFECTLY**. THE JURY SITS DEEP IN MY POCKET --

-- AND DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD LET POOR, ONLY-SLIGHTLY-FILTHY **KAREN** SPEND TIME IN JAIL **UNATTENDED?**

IF **EVER** A WELL HAS BEEN SO COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY **POISONED...**



I SMELLED THE **THERMITE** WHEN I SLIPPED IN, BUT NEVER FIGURED HE'D USE IT WHILE HE WAS IN THE **BUILDING**.

THAT MEANS HE'S DESPERATE... WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS ONLY **HALF GOOD**.

THE LIGHT MAY BE **ON, DEVIL**, BUT THE MONSTER STILL LURKS IN THE **CLOSET**.



YOU MAY PROCEED WITH BEATING ME TO A PULP, BUT I WILL **NEVER** CONFESS... NEVER GIVE YOU AN OUT --

-- MEANWHILE, ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT **MIGHT** SAVE KAREN WILL SMOLDER AROUND US!

COME ON! COME **GET** ME!

THAT **BOOK** HE TOSSED INTO THE FLAMES... COULD BE **NOTHING**... BUT I CAN NEVER TELL WHEN HE'S **LYING** TO ME --



-- THAT INFERNAL **FEAR GAS** HAS GIVEN ME AN **ERRATIC** HEARTBEAT --



-- I WAS SO CLOSE... BUT HE'S RIGHT... HIS ARREST MIGHT **NOT** HELP KAREN'S CASE AT ALL... I NEED MORE --

-- I'M **SORRY**, KAREN.

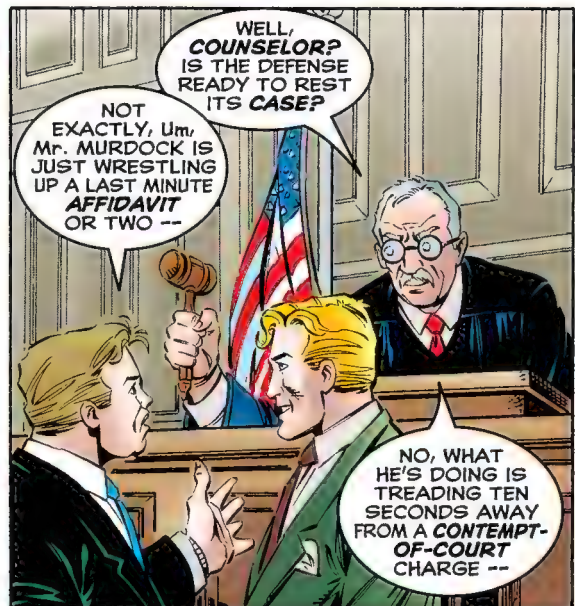


THIS ISN'T **FUNNY**, FOGGY. WHERE IS HE?

Um... GETTING READY TO BURST IN WITH A LAST MINUTE **SURPRISE DEFENSE**

YEAH, **RIGHT**.

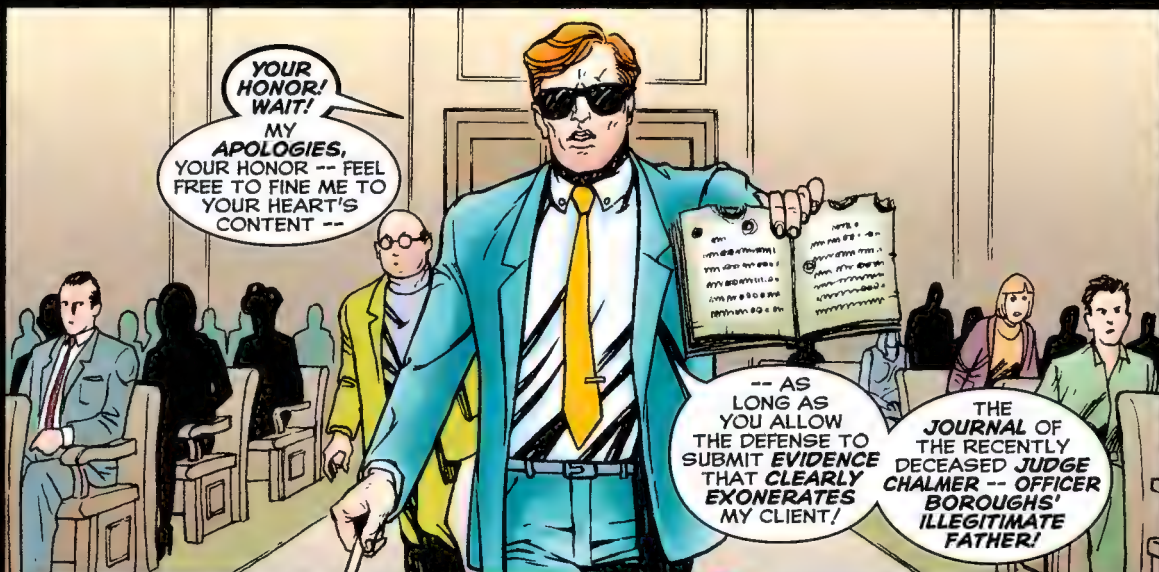
HEY, YOU JUST SIT THERE AND LOOK INNOCENT.



WELL, **COUNSELOR?** IS THE DEFENSE READY TO REST ITS **CASE**?

NOT EXACTLY, Um, Mr. **MURDOCK** IS JUST WRESTLING UP A LAST MINUTE **AFFIDAVIT** OR TWO --

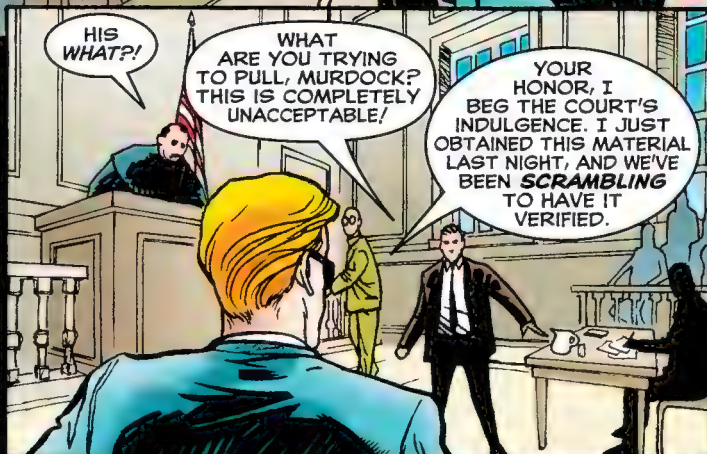
NO, WHAT HE'S DOING IS TREADING TEN SECONDS AWAY FROM A **CONTEMPT-OF-COURT** CHARGE --



YOUR HONOR!
WAIT!
MY APOLOGIES,
YOUR HONOR -- FEEL
FREE TO FINE ME TO
YOUR HEART'S
CONTENT --

-- AS
LONG AS
YOU ALLOW
THE DEFENSE TO
SUBMIT EVIDENCE
THAT CLEARLY
EXONERATES
MY CLIENT!

THE
JOURNAL OF
THE RECENTLY
DECEASED JUDGE
CHALMER -- OFFICER
BOROUGH'S
ILLEGITIMATE
FATHER!



HIS
WHAT?!

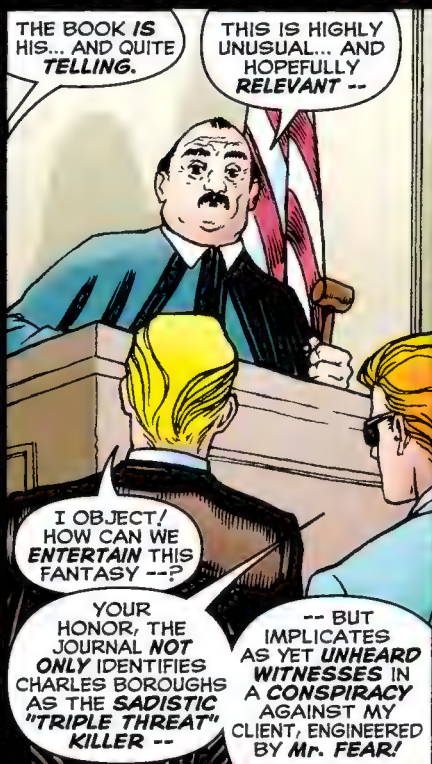
WHAT
ARE YOU TRYING
TO PULL, MURDOCK?
THIS IS COMPLETELY
UNACCEPTABLE!

YOUR
HONOR, I
BEG THE COURT'S
INDULGENCE. I JUST
OBTAINED THIS MATERIAL
LAST NIGHT, AND WE'VE
BEEN **SCRAMBLING**
TO HAVE IT
VERIFIED.



YOU DON'T KNOW HOW
HARD IT IS TO FIND A
GOOD **HANDWRITING**
ANALYST AT THREE
THIRTY IN THE
MORNING.

IT'S
TRUE, YOUR
HONOR, I'VE BEEN
COMPARING THE
JOURNAL TO THE
JUDGE'S NOTES FOR
AUTHENTICITY.



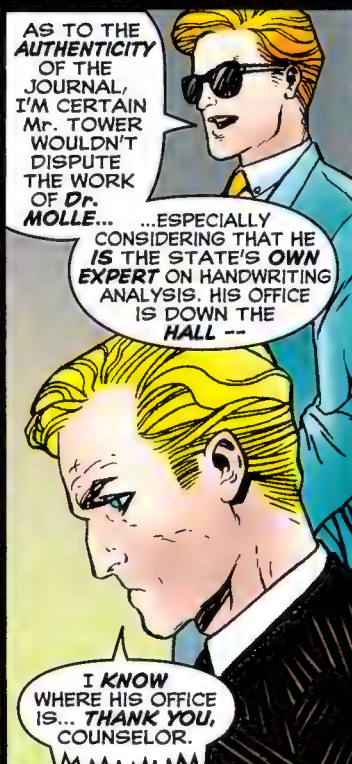
THE BOOK **IS**
HIS... AND QUITE
TELLING.

THIS IS HIGHLY
UNUSUAL... AND
HOPEFULLY
RELEVANT --

I OBJECT!
HOW CAN WE
ENTERTAIN THIS
FANTASY --?

YOUR
HONOR, THE
JOURNAL **NOT**
ONLY IDENTIFIES
CHARLES BOROUGHS
AS THE **SADISTIC**
"TRIPLE THREAT"
KILLER --

-- BUT
IMPLICATES
AS YET **UNHEARD**
WITNESSES IN
A CONSPIRACY
AGAINST MY
CLIENT, ENGINEERED
BY Mr. FEAR!



AS TO THE
AUTHENTICITY
OF THE
JOURNAL,
I'M CERTAIN
Mr. TOWER
WOULDN'T
DISPUTE
THE WORK
OF Dr.
MOLLE...

...ESPECIALLY
CONSIDERING THAT HE
IS THE STATE'S **OWN**
EXPERT ON HANDWRITING
ANALYSIS. HIS OFFICE
IS DOWN THE
HALL --

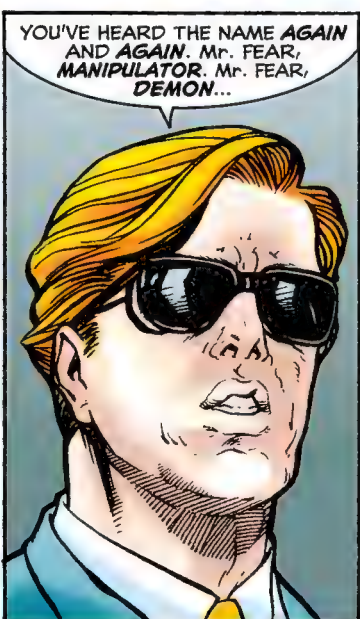
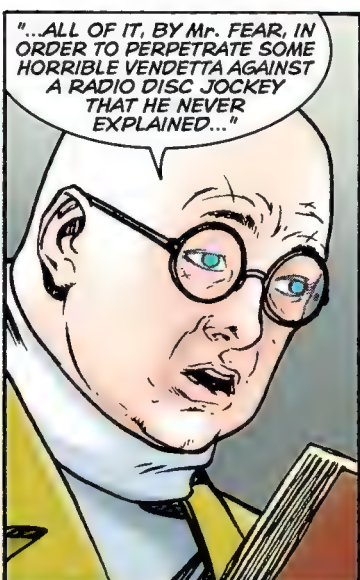
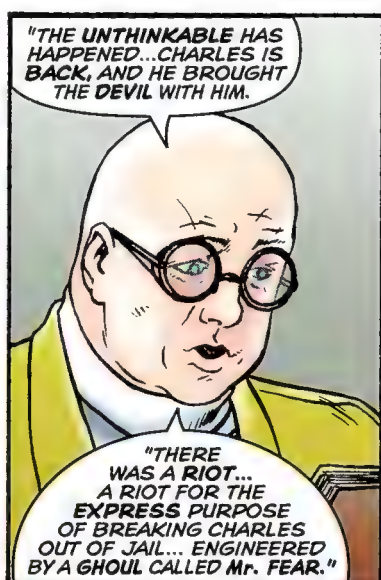
I **KNOW**
WHERE HIS OFFICE
IS... **THANK YOU**,
COUNSELOR.

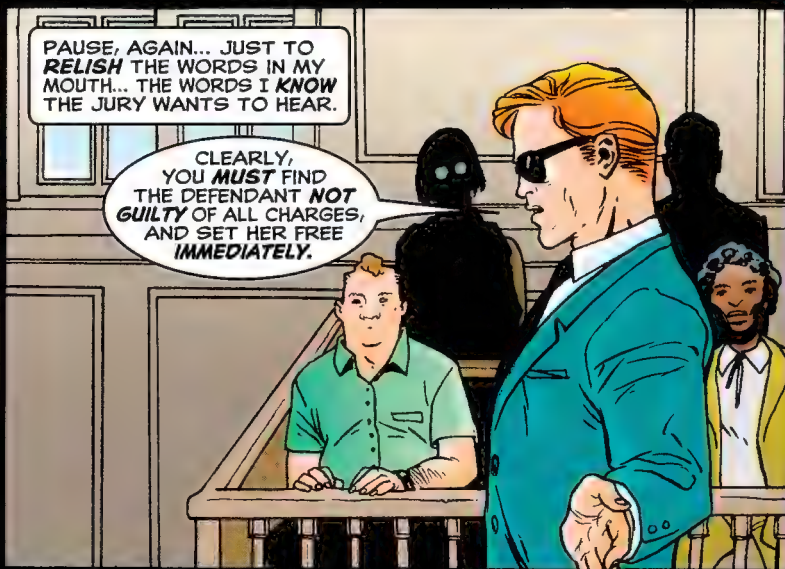


I GUESS
WITNESSES CAN
TESTIFY FROM BEYOND
THE GRAVE, Eh,
PROFESSOR?

BE
QUIET, YOU
IGNORANT
SOW.

WHAT?





PAUSE, AGAIN... JUST TO **RELISH** THE WORDS IN MY MOUTH... THE WORDS I **KNOW** THE JURY WANTS TO HEAR.

CLEARLY, YOU **MUST** FIND THE DEFENDANT **NOT GUILTY** OF ALL CHARGES, AND SET HER FREE **IMMEDIATELY**.



THANK YOU.

SO, PROFESSOR, I GUESS IT'S GOING TO BE BACK TO THE CLASSROOM WITH YOU. LOOKS LIKE "MAGIC MATT MURDOCK'S" PULLED ANOTHER ONE OUT OF HIS HAT --

THE TRIAL IS NOT OVER YET, STAR.

Oh, COME ON! THIS ONE IS SHUT TIGHT --

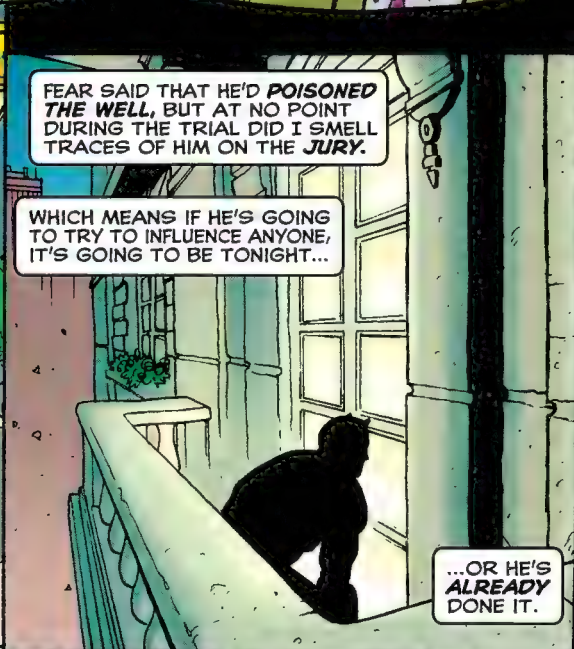
GODS, WOMAN, YOU DO LIKE TO HEAR YOURSELF TALK...

...LAST I CHECKED, THERE WAS STILL A JURY TO DECIDE CASES... AND SOMETIMES JURIES SEE WHAT WE DO NOT.



THE WORLD IS **SLEEPING**... SORT OF --

-- IT'S MORE OF A **HALF-SLEEP**, GRAVID AND RESTLESS WITH **ANXIETY**.



FEAR SAID THAT HE'D **POISONED THE WELL**, BUT AT NO POINT DURING THE TRIAL DID I SMELL TRACES OF HIM ON THE **JURY**.

WHICH MEANS IF HE'S GOING TO TRY TO INFLUENCE ANYONE, IT'S GOING TO BE TONIGHT...

...OR HE'S **ALREADY** DONE IT.



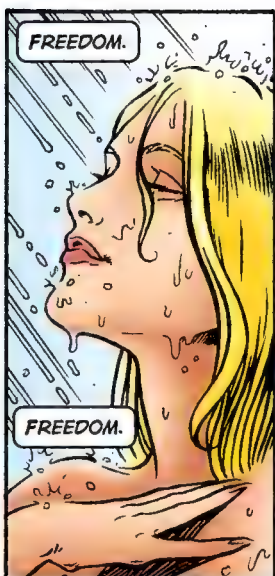
EITHER WAY I HAVE UNTIL MORNING TO FIGURE IT OUT... WITHOUT TAMPERING WITH THE JURY MYSELF, OF COURSE.

MY HEARTBEAT SOUNDS SO **LOUD**...



...I HOPE IT'S NERVES...

...AND NOT THE SINKING FEELING THAT FEAR WASN'T JUST MOUTHING OFF WHEN HE MENTIONED THE PRISON... AND KAREN.



FREEDOM.

FREEDOM.



FREEDOM.

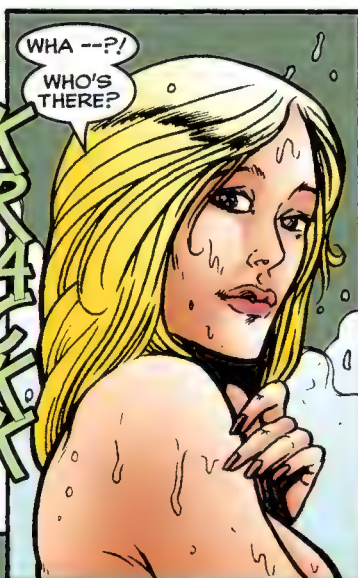
ENJOY IT, PAGE... LAST TIME YOU'LL HAVE ANY FEELING IN THAT **PERFECT** LITTLE BODY OF YOURS...

...THE **WORD** CAME THROUGH... WATCH THE **DOOR**.

'COURSE, JUST LEAVE SOME FOR **ME**.



I'LL TRY.



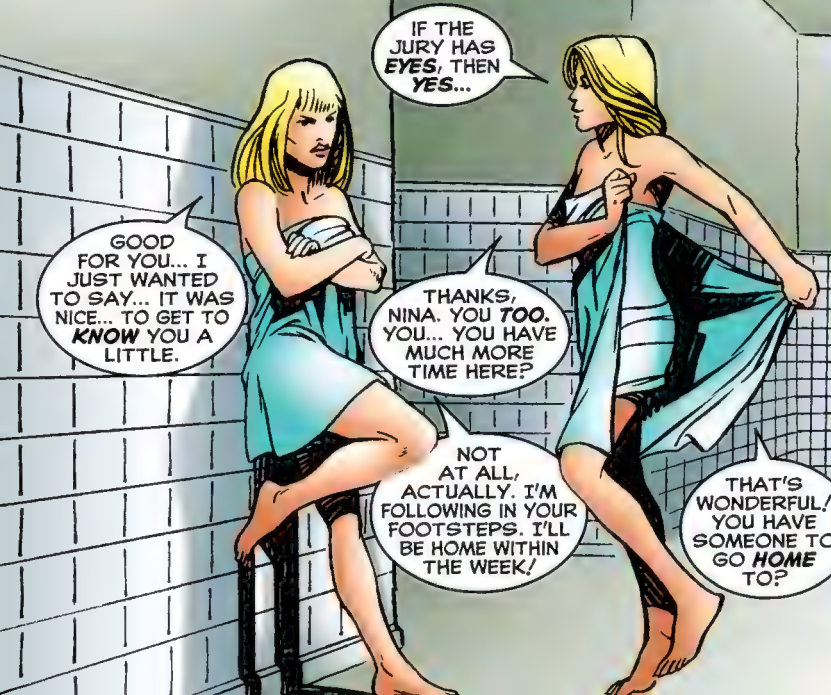
WHA --?!
WHO'S THERE?



NINAP? HOW DID YOU GET --

SCARE YOU? SORRY, PAGE. THEY'LL NEVER OIL THAT **DOOR**. MAKES A REAL **RACKET**.

YOU'RE OUT OF HERE **TOMORROW**, RIGHT?



IF THE JURY HAS EYES, THEN **YES...**

GOOD FOR YOU... I JUST WANTED TO SAY... IT WAS NICE... TO GET TO **KNOW** YOU A LITTLE.

THANKS, NINA. YOU TOO. YOU... YOU HAVE MUCH MORE TIME HERE?

NOT AT ALL, ACTUALLY. I'M FOLLOWING IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS. I'LL BE HOME WITHIN THE WEEK!

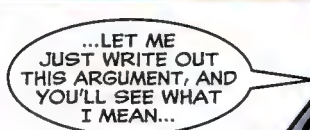
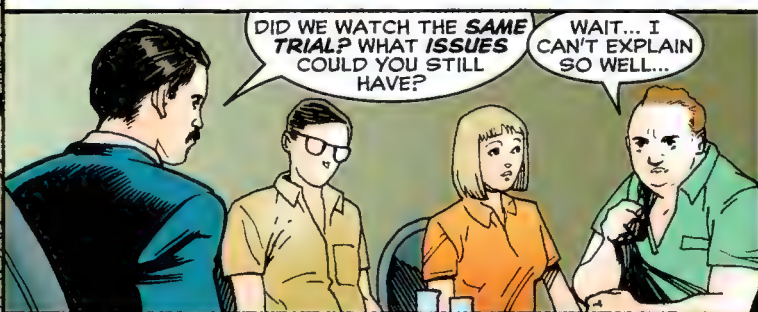
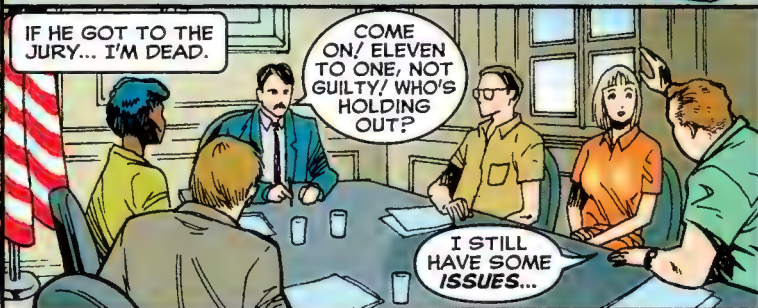
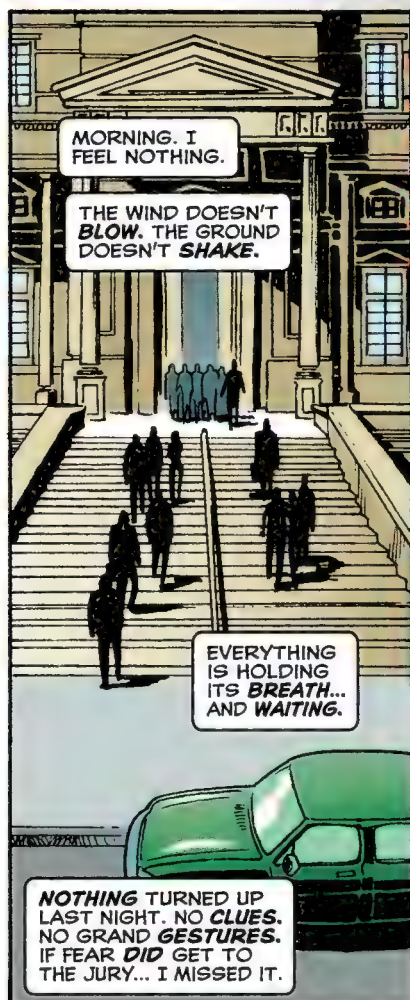
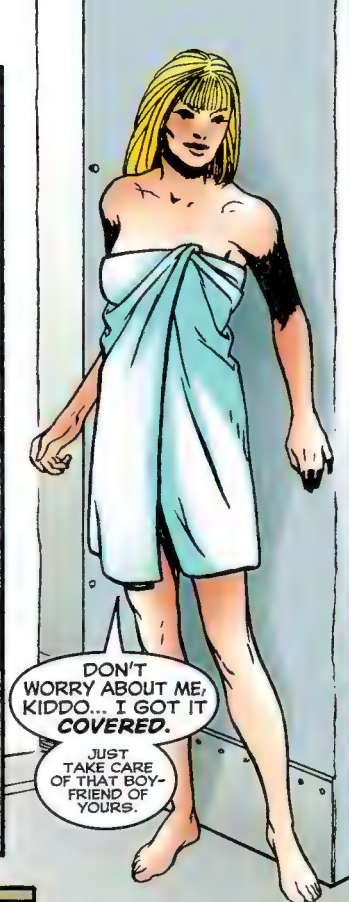
THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO GO **HOM**E TO?

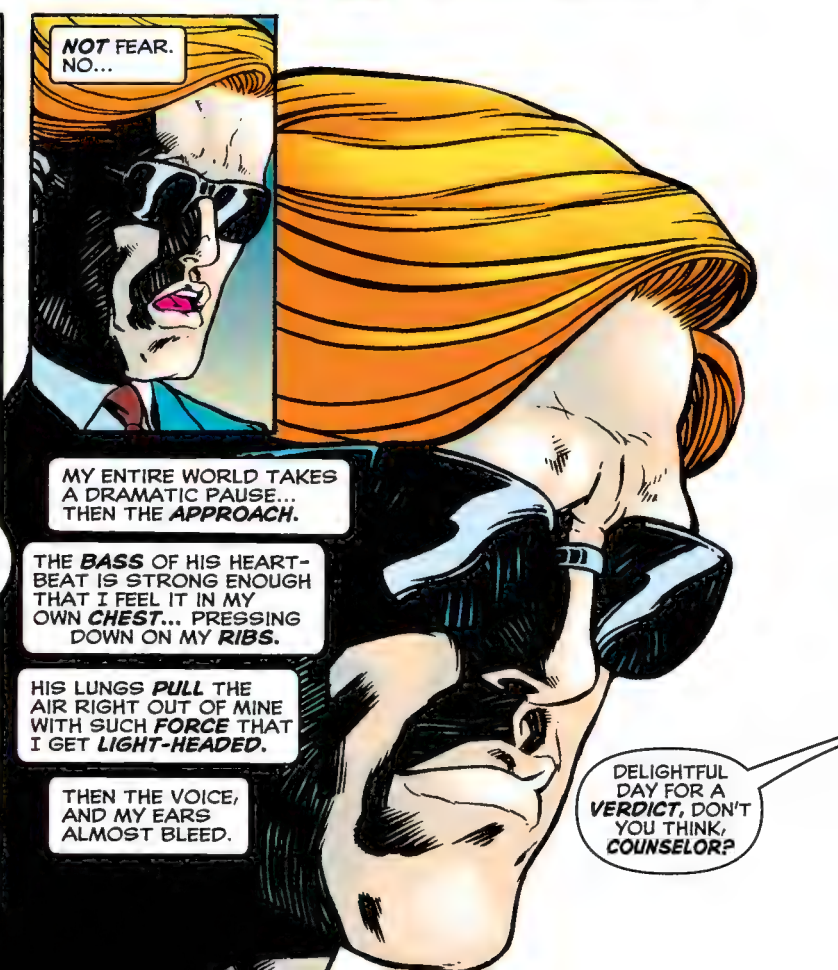
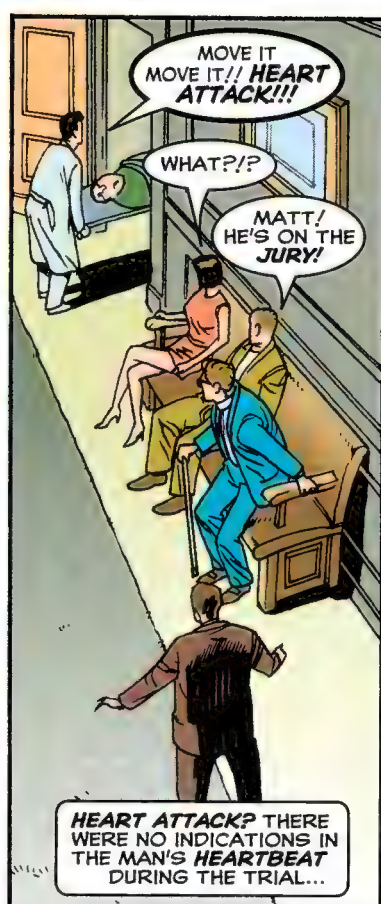
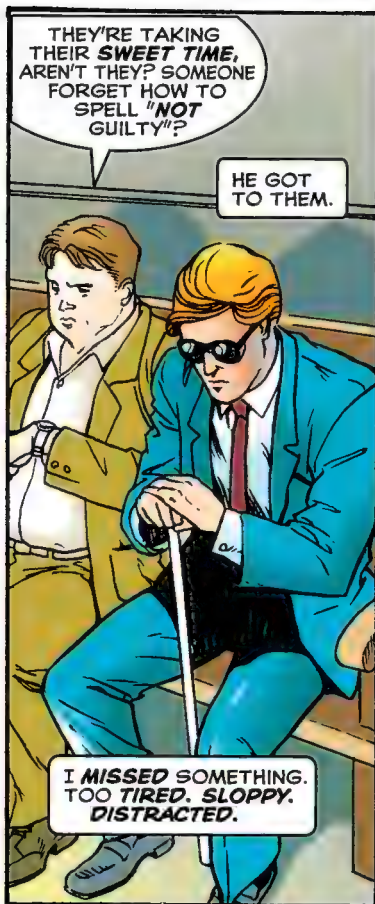


...
USED TO. BUT NOW HE'S GOT SOMEONE **ELSE**.

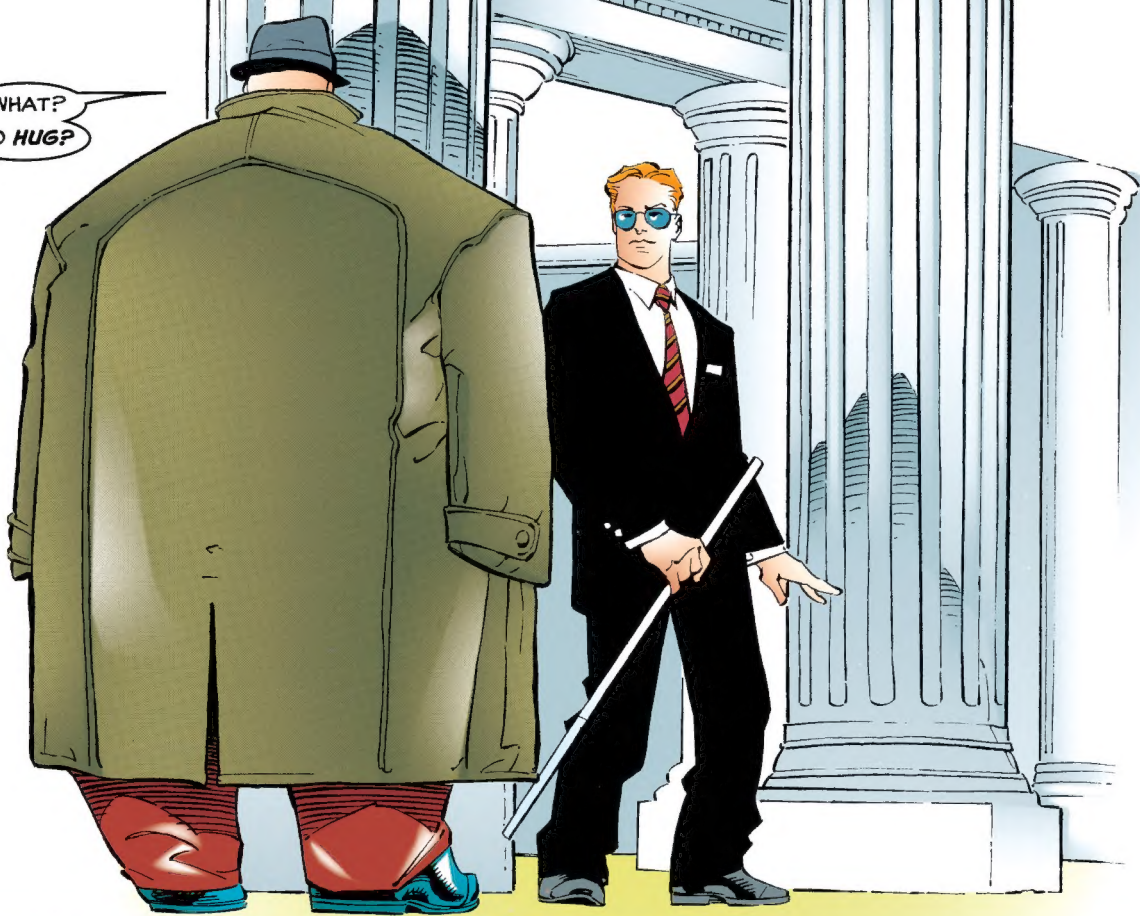
I'M SORRY --

DON'T BE... SHE'S **COOL**. **TOUGH**. HE'S **BETTER** OFF.





WHAT?
NO HUG?



SHUURMFÉ I THOUGHT YOU
WOULD **APPRECIATE** THAT,
MURDOCK. I'D HEARD YOU'D
DEVELOPED A **SENSE**
OF **HUMOR** IN MY...
ABSENCE.

WHAT
DO YOU WANT,
FISK?

TUT TUT...
SUCH VENOM...
TOWARDS A
FRIEND HELPING
A **FRIEND**.

A **PRESENT**.

THE **GHOUL** USED **HYPNOSIS**
SO YOU COULDN'T SMELL
THE **GAS**. **CLEVER...**

BUT HE SHOULD
HAVE CHOSEN A **JUROR** WITH
A **STRONGER HEART**. HE'LL
LIVE, DON'T WORRY. JUST
WITH A **PACEMAKER**.

YOU --
WHY?
WHY?

SIMPLE.
SOMEONE WAS
PLAYING IN **MY**
SANDBOX...

...AND
NO ONE GETS
TO **BREAK** YOU
BUT **ME**.

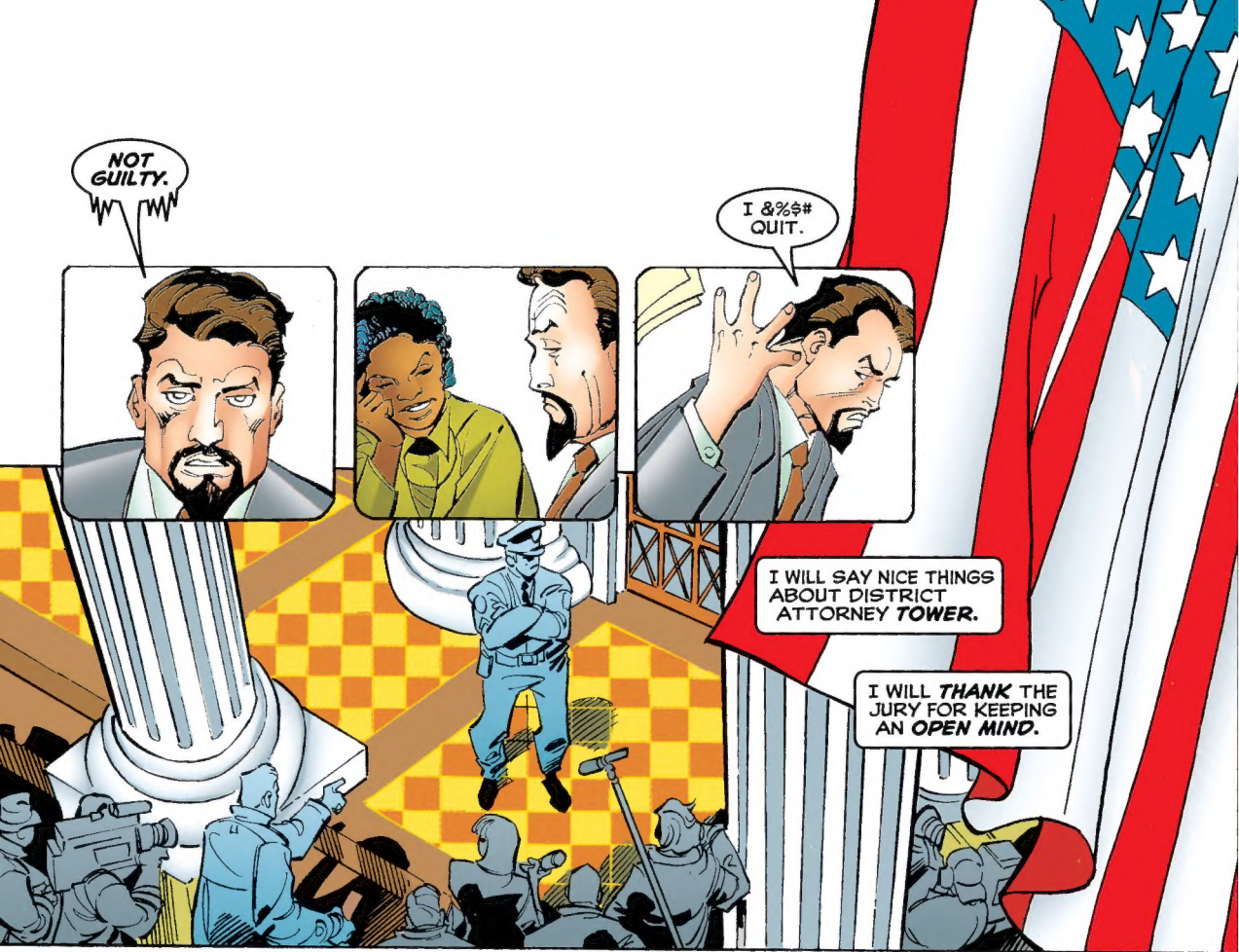
CONGRATULATIONS,
COUNSELOR. YOU WON
YOUR **WOMAN'S**
FREEDOM.

WITH
A **LITTLE**
HELP FROM A
FRIEND.

I **TRUST**
YOU WILL **REMEMBER**
THE **FAVOR...** WHEN
I **RETURN**.



"**WHOA.**"



NOT
GUILTY.

I &%%\$#
QUIT.

I WILL SAY NICE THINGS
ABOUT DISTRICT
ATTORNEY TOWER.

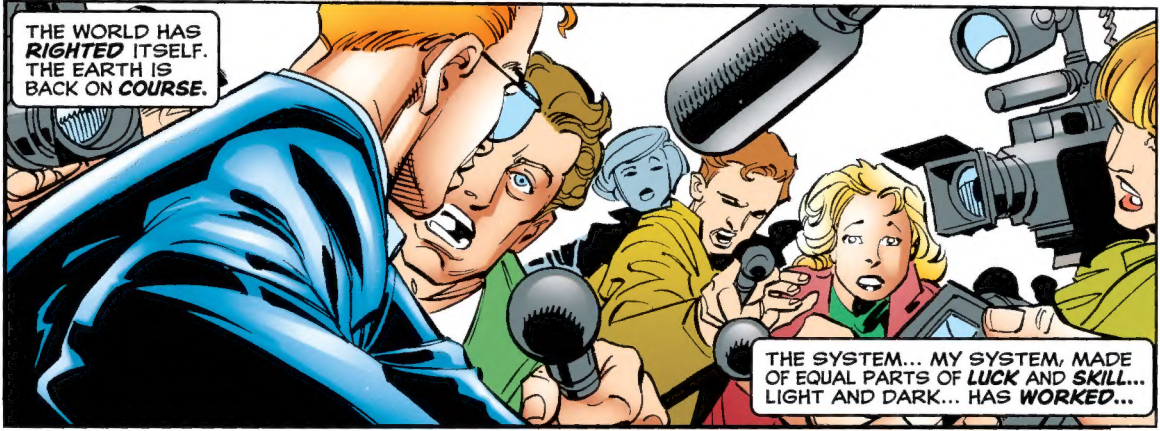
I WILL *THANK* THE
JURY FOR KEEPING
AN OPEN MIND.



I WILL WEATHER THE SEA
OF ANXIOUS REPORTERS
AND POPPING *FLASHBULBS*
AND *DUMB QUESTIONS*
WITH A *SMILE*...

...BUT I WON'T *EVER*
TELL ANYONE HOW THIS
DAY WORKED OUT.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER.



THE WORLD HAS
RIGHTED ITSELF.
THE EARTH IS
BACK ON *COURSE*.

THE SYSTEM... MY SYSTEM, MADE
OF EQUAL PARTS OF *LUCK* AND *SKILL*...
LIGHT AND DARK... HAS *WORKED*...

AND FEAR'S
FAILED.

I'M DIZZY WITH JOY. I FEEL
LIKE SCREAMING ABOUT
LOVE AND FAITH AND THE
SMELL OF HER HAIR FROM
THE NEAREST ROOFTOP...

...BUT **SILENCE** DOES
THE TRICK INSTEAD.



Next:

FLYING BLIND
part 1

BONUS:

**PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN
COVER ART FOR**

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

#368!



LEONARDI
+
LaROSA

1531